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THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2015

**NATIONAL & RURAL LIFE
PET MONTH IN THE VALE**



SIX NATIONS RUGBY:
'THE RED DRAGON ROARS DEFIANCE'
BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

International evening at Hi Tide!



PICTURED: Students at the Rotary Club international evening that was recently held at the Hi Tide.
SEE MORE PICTURES AND A FULL REPORT ON PAGE 4.

Historic local buildings set to receive some welcome TLC!

CARNEGIE House and the former Victoria Inn are among the historic buildings in Bridgend town centre set to undergo a facelift thanks to the latest phase of the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

The stonework to the front of Carnegie House's façade, balustrade, pilasters and balcony is all to be repaired after Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) successfully bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The restoration work on the listed building is due to start this week and will take around three months to complete.

The grade two listed Victoria Inn public house building on Adare Street, which has been vacant for several years, is being repaired so that it can be brought back into use for a new business venture.

Work has already begun and is due to take approximately 12 months.

The adjoining property at 7 Adare Street is also being restored, as are 2 and 4 Elder Street Cottages, complementing the major public realm regeneration works that were completed by BCBC last summer in Elder Street and Elder Yard.

In the last decade, over £1.5 million worth of Heritage Lottery Fund grants have been awarded in the town centre through the Townscape Heritage Initiative, giving local businesses an opportunity to access funding to carry out restoration work to their premises.

Work has also recently been completed on 22 Dunraven Place to provide a traditional shop-front and signage, while a further scheme has been agreed for the re-carving and re-bedding of some of the commemorative plaques at the War Memorial in Dunraven Place, together with stone cleaning and the addition of new flagpoles.

Coun Charles Smith, BCBC's cabinet member for strategic change, said: "The Townscape Heritage Initiative has encouraged building owners and

local organisations to work together with the council to restore premises to their historical prime, using traditional materials and methods."

In addition to announcing the refurbishment work to the front of Carnegie House, BCBC has also confirmed the official transfer of the former library on Wyndham Street to Bridgend Town Council.

The town council is taking on the freehold of the building as a 'community asset transfer' and Coun Bob Burns, Mayor of Bridgend Town Council, said: "Officers and cabinet members from BCBC have been very supportive and have worked together to ensure that the building now known as Carnegie House was kept for the use of the community."

"The arts centre part of Carnegie House is thriving with many visual arts, drama, music and poetry events through March to November, and we hope that it will be an asset for the local community for many years."

Council office block to be sold and demolished

A FAMILIAR office block that was home to council officers for many years is to be demolished to make way for a care home.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has confirmed the sale of its Sunnyside office and revealed plans for it to be demolished and re-developed as a private residential care home and extra care facility.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Who wants to build what and where in the county?

Mrs Joy Parish – 53 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – Reconstruct and reroof existing front bay, internal structural alteration and detached garage extension
Miss K T Isidoro – 10 Deri Avenue, Pencoed – Proposed loft conversion including dormer projections.
Mr Chris Jones – 6 Locks Court, Porthcawl – Proposed granny annexe.
HD Ltd UK – Land at junction of Tremains Road/Brackla Street, Bridgend – Change of use to a pay and display car park.
Cenlin Limited – NW part of former Stormy Down aerodrome – Continuation of use of an area for temporary storage of soil and aggregates generated from the site.
Hafod Care – 6 Iestyn Court, Brocastle – Change of use from Class D1 (meeting rooms for residents) to Class C3 (dwelling house).
Miss Shirley Down – 17 Penybont Road, Pencoed – Drop existing kerb.
Mr I Evans – Tal y Fan Isaf Cottage, New Mill, Blackmill – Rebuilding and renovation of cottage.
Mr I Williams – 41 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Retention of fence to front and side of property.
Mr Stephen Dunford – 68 Eweny Road, Bridgend – Remove condition 1 of P/04/1429/FUL to allow conversion of garage into a habitable room.
Mr Huw Nicholls – 15 New Road, Porthcawl – Change of use from A1 (shops) to A3 (food and drink).
TB Davies (UK) Limited – Land adjacent Ward Jones (Bridgend) Limited, Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Change of use of land to B1/B2/B8.
Welsh Centre for Action on Depen – Flat 1, Gaylard Buildings, Court Road, Bridgend – Change of use to office and facilitating of group meetings.
Ms Tracey Spiller – 2 Clos y Capel, Porthcawl – Rear second floor extension above existing dining room.
Persimmon Homes West Wales – Land at Ty Draw Farm, Pyle – Residential development of 43 dwellings.
Mr and Mrs J Wood – Glanrhyd Farm, Angelton Road, Pen-y-

Fai – First floor extension.
Mr Williams – Terfryn, 2 Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-Fai – Outline planning for the demolition of Terfryn and build two houses on the land.
Mr and Mrs R Brewer – 60 West Road, Bridgend – Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory and alterations to existing rear lean-to extension.
Ms P John – 13 Glebeland Close, Coychurch – Conversion of garage to living accommodation and single storey extension to front of property.
Asda Stores Ltd – Ffald Road Shopping Centre, Pyle – Remove condition 6 of P/93/275/OUT to allow the filling station and shop to trade 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday.
Mr C and Mrs M Williams – 11 Plas Ty Mawr, Pen-y-Fai – Three dormer windows to rear elevation.
Mrs Kerry Williams – 11 Stonechat Close, Porthcawl – Internal refurbishment and ground and first floor front and rear extensions.
Mr Meyrick – 72 Tremains Court, Brackla – Erect storm porch to the front elevation.
Mrs Carol Cook – 17 Oakwood, Maesteg – Ramped access to rear garden.
Mr John Price – Station House, Station Approach, Tondur – Proposed summer house.
Mr G Griffiths – 2, 3, 4 and 5 Wessex Villas (former Hermon Chapel) High Street, Ogmere Vale – Non material amendment to P/2567/FUL to use attic space as fourth bedroom in houses 2, 3, 4 and 5.
Mr A J Whittle – 25 Tremains Court, Brackla – Single storey extension to side and rear.
Mr Arman Domehry – Car park at the Barn Yard indoor play centre, Marlas Road, Pyle – Change of use of car park to hand car wash and valet facility with erection of two canopies.
Mr David Phillips – 4 Station Hill, Maesteg – Change use of room of fibrous plaster mouldings showroom to domestic lounge and reinstate traditional window opening.
Ms Fiona Crawford – The Holdings, Moor Lane, Porthcawl – Demolish existing extension and replace with new.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Full marks to PoW hospital!

HAVING just spent a week in AMU (acute medical unit) and ward two at the Princess of Wales Hospital, I can say, with confidence, that the attention and treatment I received in both wards was most heartening.

The doctors I saw immediately put my mind at rest, as did the nurses and other staff. I include, especially, the tea ladies in both wards, who made

me feel at home.

The above is not only my opinion, as other patients I spoke to in both wards could not speak highly enough of the professionalism of all the staff.

Certainly there were no complaints about the quality and quantity of the food (cooked meals) served three times a day. Water jugs were continually topped up, and drinking tumblers rinsed or changed as required.

Medicines were given correctly and on time, as far as I could tell, according to a fool-proof procedure. Doctors' ward visits were regular and not rushed, as were physio visits.

I would also like to thank Eryl Surgery in Llantwit Major for looking after me so well.

Dave Lane, Llantwit Major.

Police and the miners

IN response to the letter from Coun KJ Watts (The GEM, March 12): Leanne Wood, leader of Plaid Cymru is absolutely right – the perception of policing did change for the worse in those mining communities.

The evidence that Mr Watts seeks is on record in film footage and independent witness statements taken during the miners' strike, an event that was ingeniously engineered by the then Thatcherite Government, the spider's web that Arthur Scargill walked right into.

I watched the

sickening scenes of blood pouring down the faces of miners after assaults from mounted police officers, shown on television news.

I hasten to add that only a minority of police not only failed to protect, but actually assaulted people in this manner, but it only takes a handful of bad apples for the whole barrel to acquire a rotten reputation.

And, very importantly, Leanne Wood and Plaid Cymru are far more in tune with mining communities and the common masses, than any Conservative retired police person or Tory councillor could ever be.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

French students study all things Welsh!

THIS year, at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, we have decided to take on a big project never done before.

For the first time ever, 24 of our students are involved in a French student exchange with a big school in Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire called La Joliverie.

The two schools have worked closely in the last few months to make sure this project becomes a reality. We are all now awaiting the imminent arrival of the French students in Porthcawl today, March 19. They will be staying for six days so watch out for any new faces in town!

As well as finding out what it is like to be a pupil in a comprehensive school in Wales, learning about Welsh culture and food, the French

students will also have the opportunity to visit St Fagans and Big Pit, not to mention the social evening at the Hi-Tide on Saturday night!

Members of the Porthcawl-Saint-Sébastien Town Twinning Association (PSSSTA) will be joining us to celebrate the many successful years of friendship and partnership between the two towns. The Twinning Association has indeed been extremely supportive of this project and has helped finding hosting families.

This exchange will cement the wonderful links that already exist between Porthcawl and Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire and who knows, for the students, it may well lead to overseas friendships that could last a lifetime!

A très bientôt! Mrs G Morgan (teacher of French), Porthcawl

LIFE GOES ON OUTSIDE EU

IN reply to Mr Kennet's letter in The GEM last week here are some thoughts on leaving the EU (which, incidentally, I believe will never happen, although I sincerely wish it would).

Firstly, the countries that make up the EU sell to us far more than we sell to them and, therefore, have far more to lose if we left.

For instance, GB is in the top five buyers of German and French products, from cars to champagne.

If we left, will workers in these countries, who are always far more vocal than our workers, allow employers to stop trading with the UK because we are outside the EU? Agreements would be quickly arranged to enable us to carry on trading, let there be little doubt about that.

As for the argument that foreign companies would leave the UK if we left the EU, the largest investors in Britain are countries outside the EU anyway, and even Germany invests far more outside the euro zone than it does in the common

market. Does it know something we don't? Interestingly, one of the largest Volkswagen car factories in the world is in Russia of all places.

How do the largest economies in the world, China and USA, manage outside the EU? The American economy, in particular, at present is growing at a rate that is four to five times faster than any country on mainland Europe, which is well and truly in the doldrums – with among many other problems record unemployment rates.

In the UK, we have escaped a lot of these issues because more by luck than judgement, we never signed up to the single currency although all the Euro experts at the time said we will miss out if we don't (the same soothsayers who say we must not leave the EU). How wrong they were!

I could agree with Mr Kennet if the EU was the organisation I voted for all those years ago, but it is not. As usual, British people who are the most tolerant and fair minded in the world do, despite all the facts to the contrary, believe the so-called experts – that the EU is the answer to all our ills – which it certainly is not.

Ian Hampton, Maesteg.

Barber's VIP customer!

FOLLOWING the funeral of Steve Strange last week, young owner of Barbershop No 5, Porthcawl, Elliott Mills, was blissfully unaware that he had cut the hair of an '80s celebrity.

It was only when his mother saw a picture on Facebook that he found out that he had cut Peter Marilyn Robinson's (AKA Marilyn) hair.

Having discovered the identity of his client, Elliott said he was glad he didn't know who he was at the time as it would have made him very nervous.

It would appear that Mr Robinson was pleased with his haircut as he posted it on Twitter (see Eli Mills Facebook page). Ceri Anderson, Sidmouth.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MARCH 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	05.22	9.9	17.49	10.1
20 Fri	06.11	10.5	18.34	10.5
21 Sat	06.58	10.8	19.19	10.7
22 Sun	07.42	10.9	19.59	10.6
23 Mon	08.24	10.6	20.43	10.3
24 Tues	09.07	10.1	21.21	9.7
25 Wed	09.47	9.4	22.58	9.1
26 Thur	10.31	8.8	22.52	8.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Dance teachers star on the BBCs Real Lives Reunited

"AND THIS IS THE WAY THEY DO THE CHA CHA CHA IN PORTHCAWL"



THOSE words have haunted Gareth and Andrea Jarvis for the past 40 years. The couple, then in their early 20s, were appearing on the 25th anniversary programme of *Come Dancing*, representing Wales in a home nations team match.

Gareth and Andrea have lived in Porthcawl for most of their lives; they have their own dance school - Strictly Dance Ltd - and teach in various venues. They are resident dance teachers in the Grand Pavilion and also travel the world working for P & O Cruises.

The footage from their *Come Dancing* performance became a cult classic - one of the few remaining pieces of film from a series that spanned nearly 50 years.

Shot in 1974, its 70s styling, accompanied by Gareth's heavy rimmed spectacles and full moustache provided a clip totally evocative of the decade. But far from wanting to consign the memory to history, the couple, agreed to re-live the moment and meet with the rivals that they were pitted against in competition all those years ago.

The premise behind BBC's *Real Lives Reunited* is to take an event of recent times and reunite the people behind the headlines. And so, with both

couples agreeing to take part in the programme, they were whisked off for a day's filming in London to meet and share their memories with each other.

However, the reminiscences were just part of the story - there was a surprise in store which the production team hadn't truly revealed to either party. *Real Lives* took them to a London pub for 'the reveal' when they met up again for the first time.

"It was like something from *MIS*," Gareth said. "We were chaperoned by crews with walkie-talkies who made sure that our paths didn't cross until we were in front of the camera."

During the programme, the couples watched the original show, which was hosted by Terry Wogan. They shared their recollections of the shoot at the ornate Lyceum Ballroom in London, which was converted back into a theatre in 1996.

Andrea remembers how the Welsh team were the underdogs, facing a strong English line-up and predominantly English audience.

When the couple were first approached to make *Real Lives*, they were asked if they would be prepared to do a bit of dancing. They were asked to rehearse a cha cha cha for filming but it wasn't until after the 'reveal' that they realised what the producers had up

their sleeve.

Says Andrea: "We had a nice lunch talking over old times and the crew told us we were being moved on to the next location for the dance sequences. It was only then we were told that they were recreating the competition and it was being judged by a 'Strictly' professional."

They were taken to a theatre to film their performances - in front of Erin Boag. Filming was lengthy with dressing room interviews and extensive cut-aways. Then each couple took to the stage. It had a "slippery rippled black covering" which proved very difficult to dance on. "I was just intent on staying upright," admits Andrea.

Immediately afterwards, the couples were whisked to Elstree Studios where they had been given VIP seats for the filming of *Strictly Come Dancing*.

They rounded off the *Real Lives* feature with the final shot of both couples leaving the studios mimicking the *Strictly* 'keep dancing' moment.

The TV show has recalled a lot of memories for people who used to watch *Come Dancing* and Gareth and Andrea are glad to have been part of something which was so loved and enjoyed.



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Office block to be demolished

RIGHT: The Sunnyside office block is to be demolished to make way for a residential care home.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A BCBC spokesman said that unconditional contracts had been exchanged for the sale of the five-storey office site, close to the existing Civic Offices on Angel Street, and a proposal has been submitted by Bridgend-based company Edwards Construction for a state-of-the-art care home and extra care facility to be built in its place.

Residential, nursing home and elderly mental illness health care will be provided at the new first-class facility and, subject to planning approval, it is anticipated that works to demolish the existing office will begin in the next couple of months, and the construction of the care home would be completed by autumn 2016.

The Sunnyside Office

will continue to be open to the public until March 31. Many council services have already been transferred to the Civic Offices, and any remaining services and staff will also move there in the next few weeks.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The council's Ty'r Ardd building, which can be found next to the Sunnyside Offices, is not being sold and will therefore continue with 'business as usual' so anyone who wishes to register a birth, death or marriage should carry on doing so there. "Ty'r Ardd also contains The Local and Family History Centre which houses a substantial collection of research materials for local and family historians".

Explaining the reasons behind the sale of the Sunnyside Office,



BCBC Leader, Coun Mel Nott OBE, said: "Selling Sunnyside is a key part of our plan to move from having three main offices in Bridgend town centre down to two, making much more efficient use of our office space and achieving significant financial savings."

"We have developed a

medium term financial strategy to protect essential front-line services and the savings made following the sale of the Sunnyside Office, as well as the receipt gained from it, will all contribute to this.

"I am pleased to be able to confirm the sale following a marketing and tendering exercise

and I am sure that residents will be keen to hear about these plans for a modern high-quality care home."

The full plans for the redevelopment of the Sunnyside site can be viewed by visiting the planning application pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk



Glyn Edmunds and Pam with Ian Hall.

Man's wonderful talk on Tanzanian safari

THE Porthcawl Stroke Club recently welcomed the very amiable Glyn Edmunds and his wife Pam from the Pyle and Porthcawl Photographic Society, to give a wonderful presentation on a magical Tanzania, which included really breathtaking shots.

How Glyn captured those magnificent photo shots is astounding. The screen was full of unusual birds of prey, lions, elephants, hippopotami,

and giraffes. It was a delight to experience the safari trip.

There were several species that we had never heard of before or seen for that matter.

This is the second presentation of Glyn's work and anyone who is fortunate to enjoy the presentations will indeed be in for a treat.

From all the Porthcawl Stroke Club, we thank you so much Glyn for making your visit so enjoyable and interesting.

BM

ROTARY CLUB PLAYS HOST TO ATLANTIC COLLEGE STUDENTS



The Broadway Babes.

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl recently held its annual 'International Evening' at the Hi Tide.

Each year, the club invites students from Atlantic College to share an evening of music, food and world-wide cultures and this year was no different.

Fourteen students and 180 guests were wonderfully entertained by Porthcawl Amateur Operatic Dramatic Society's 'Broadway Chorus' and Broadway Babes, led by Mike Ploymann and compered by Barrie Wilson. Their programme included songs from their up-coming production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

After their meal, the students (from

as far afield as Japan, Russia, Burkina Faso, Namibia and Israel) related their thoughts about Wales and enlightened their enthralled audience about each student's country and cultures.

National anthems were sung, histories were spoken about, the colours on flags were explained, poems were recited and folk dances performed.

Many readers will remember Father Cashin from Porthcawl and will know that he has undertaken missionary work in Zambia. The Rotary Club is pleased to report that proceeds from the international evening will be donated to fund a water project in Father Cashin's mission in Nalwei.

Ivor Williams

A fascinating history of hats

IN Newton WI's March meeting we were pleased to welcome home our President Pearl Mason from her recent journey to New Zealand.

The meeting then commenced with the signing of the minutes and all other WI business and news.

The guest speaker was Janet Jennings who gave a very interesting talk on the 'Variety of hats through the ages', starting with the Victorian era to the present time.

The talk was accompanied by a display of wonderful hats, from small black Victorian bonnets, large elegant Edwardian hats,

cloches, Kangol, to the fascinator which is widely worn today.

All our members thoroughly enjoyed the talk and hat display, which for some brought back many memories.

The committee were thanked for the 'pancake morning,' especially Shirley and Anna for all the very tasty pancakes they cooked.

Great fun and laughter was had with the 'tossing of the pancake' competition, which was won by Malen Jones, the wooden spoon going to Pat Theodore.

There's lots to look forward to in the coming months, so if you would like to join us, contact Pearl Mason on 772657.

M FREEMAN

ROTARY DINNER

THE Rotary Club of Maesteg will be celebrating its 70th anniversary with a gala dinner on May 2 at the Masonic Hall, Castle Street, Maesteg.

The club has raised many thousands of pounds for local and international charities and despite problems with falling membership over recent years, is delighted to celebrate this important milestone.

It welcomes former members and all interested in supporting the club. Tickets are priced at £25 per person. Contact Mr David Howells on 01656 732438, Mr Tal Harries (01656 711078) or Mr Viv Gage (01639 870442).

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES, MP for Ogmere, has voted in favour of a law to introduce standardised packaging for cigarettes in the UK.

The draft standardised packaging of tobacco products regulations 2015 were laid before the House of Commons on February 23 and were approved by the House on March 11.

Mr Irranca-Davies was one of 367 MPs who voted in favour of the new law; 113 MPs voted against it. The law is expected to be approved by the House of Lords before the end of the parliamentary session.

These new regulations mean that, from 2016, all cigarette packaging will be identical, except

for the make and brand name, with health warnings accompanying graphic photos.

Supporters of standardised packaging argue that making cigarette packets less appealing will prevent young people from taking up smoking in the first place.

The Government-commissioned review by Sir Cyril Chantler concluded in April 2014 that, 'standardised packaging would serve to reduce the rate of children taking up smoking' and have a 'positive impact' on public health.

Cancer Research UK welcomed the new regulations, calling it 'a huge victory for public health.'

Figures from Stop Smoking Wales reveal that tobacco use represents the single largest cause of

avoidable deaths in Wales, causing almost one in five deaths. These figures also show that the equivalent of one classroom of children start smoking in Wales every day.

Speaking after the vote, Huw Irranca-Davies said: "The introduction of standardised packaging for cigarettes is an important step forward in reducing the number of young people taking up smoking in Wales."

"As well as giving these children a better quality of life free from smoking-related illnesses, we will also relieve pressure on the NHS. Currently, treating diseases caused by smoking costs our NHS £2.7 billion each year."

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GEORGE & JANE

PUPILS CREATE STUNNING MOSAIC OF CHURCH YEAR



PICTURED: (left to right) Archdeacon Philip Morris, Duncan Mottram (headteacher), pupils Anna Roberts, Andre Joseph, Elin May and Bishop David.

A STRIKING new mosaic depicting the church year has been created by pupils at a local school.

Each of the 200 pupils at St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School had a hand in helping to create the stunning 20ft by 14ft artwork which was made from broken tiles.

The mosaic was made in conjunction with artist-in-residence Kate

Derbyshire from St Nicholas, who spent a month working with pupils at the school.

It was officially unveiled and blessed by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne during a service at the school this week.

A new altar donated by nearby Eweny Priory Church, replicating the church's own altar, was also unveiled at the service. Headteacher Duncan

Mottram said: "We were taking down some old drapes while redecorating work was carried out in the hall when we decided it would be nice to have a more fitting backdrop to worship in the hall."

"We wanted something that would follow the church year and we wanted something that was more modern than the drapes that had hung there previously."

"We are delighted with the finished result which every single child in the school played a part in creating. The children are very proud of it - it has really captured their imagination."

"Their faces when they came into school

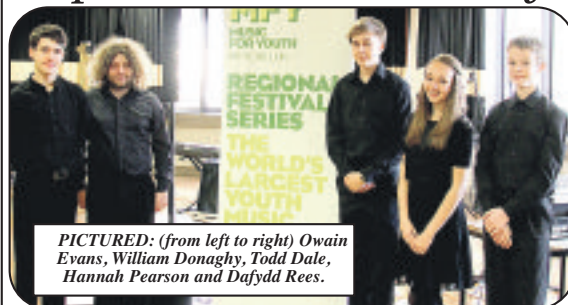
after half term and saw it finished were full of awe and wonder."

The mosaic illustrates the various stages of the church calendar of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. Each sphere is framed in the matching liturgical colour.

Bishop David, who blessed the mosaic and the new altar said: "The mosaic is absolutely brilliant, using the talent of every child in the school, along with Kate Derbyshire, the resident artist, who produced an arresting take on the chief parts of the Church's year, coinciding with the major events in Jesus's life."

Parish priest and Archdeacon of Margam, the Venerable Philip Morris said: "It's fantastic and is very visible from outside, particularly when the sun is shining, when it is reflected outside as a symbol in the community."

School's musicians represent their county



PICTURED: (from left to right) Owain Evans, William Donaghy, Todd Dale, Hannah Pearson and Dafydd Rees.

MARCH 6 was a very big day for five Brynteg Comprehensive pupils who competed on behalf of the county in this year's 'Music for Youth' festival at the Newport Centre.

Music for Youth celebrates music making throughout the UK in its annual competitions, with competitors hoping to win a place in one of their concert programmes in some of the premier venues in the UK.

William Donaghy (year-13), Hannah Pearson (year-9) and Dafydd Rees (year-7) performed 'Mercy Me' by Jack McKenzie with the Bridgend County Training Brass, receiving glowing comments such as "lots of energy and drive" and "Would have loved to have listened to more!" from the adjudicators.

William Donaghy, Todd Dale (both of year-13) and Owain Evans (year-11) performed with Bridgend County Symphonic Brass a demanding programme of John Williams' 'Olympic Fanfare and Theme', 'Concierto de Aranjuez' by Rodrigo and Henry's VIII's 'Pastime with Good Company'.

The adjudicators were once again very impressed with this advance ensemble playing, giving comments of high praise such as "mature brass playing" and "so much potential in the group - well performed!"

Well done to all the performers in representing our school for the county at such a high standard, we are all very proud of you.

Thanks you to our brass peripatetic teacher, Mr Grey, for directing the brass ensembles along with his colleague, Mr Edwards.

PD

Support group enjoys talk on World War One

AT the February meeting of the Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group, Mr Mike Boyle showed a series of films depicting images and music of World War One.

He told us how some of the old songs came about and asked to join in with the singing. It made us think of all the young

soldiers who lost their lives or were wounded during the 'Great War'.

We are a very special group - you have to have Parkinson's (or be a carer) to join us and enjoy the company of others who understand the condition.

We meet in the Unitarian Chapel, school room at 10.30am on the last Friday of every month. For further information, contact 01656 783071.

Darts team is on target again

FEBRUARY 21 saw Pencoeed WI's intrepid darts team in action for the annual Glamorgan Federation tournament.

Once again, they had been unable to practice

and apart from one member, they had not picked up the arrows since the previous year. This year it was not a whitewash, they won two games - what a result!

In 2014, team member Val had the highest score of the tournament and this year a new member, Hazel, emulated her.

Our speaker for March, Peter Sampson, gave an interesting talk about the island of Flat Holm, it was fascinating.

Val has certainly put together a diverse programme for 2015. In only three months we have learnt about the work of the First Responders, have found out what she did in the shed (she made felt and then produced jackets, hats, bags and much more) and we visited Flat Holm Island.

I'm looking forward to our April speaker who is talking about puppy training, and I am hoping she will bring along a dog.

For further information about Pencoeed WI, call 01656 862181 or 01656 860289.

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World book day quiz tests book knowledge

MAESTEG, Porthcawl and Pyle libraries flung open their doors to local primary school children and put their book knowledge to the test in celebration of World Book Day.

Avid book fans went head to head in a special quiz with two pupils from each participating school answering 20 questions on a book of their choice.

Harly Vidian and Mia McErlean from Plasnewydd Primary clearly demonstrated their novel knowledge about their chosen book *The Hero on a Bicycle* by Shirley Hughes which saw them claim the winner's title at Maesteg Library.

There was stiff competition for second place as Llangynwyd and Garth primary schools answered the same number of questions correctly, meaning that both teams faced a tie-breaker question.

When asked "What birthday will Maesteg Library be celebrating

this year?" Llangynwyd Primary School pupils Ben Ford and Isabelle Beynon correctly guessed 60 years and were announced as the runners-up.

Meanwhile at Porthcawl Library, the quiz was closely adjudicated by West Park Primary School's mascot Sam the monkey, and saw an extremely close competition. St Clare's School scooped the top spot with Danny Markhoff and Jaynee Winslade-Gregory achieving full marks when quizzed on *The Boy who swam with Piranhas* by David Almond.

Just one point behind and in second place were Elisha Martin and Trent Francis from Nottage Primary School who were put to the test about John Boyne's *Stay Where You Are and then Leave*, while a further half point behind them was Porthcawl Primary School who answered questions on *Queenie* by Jacqueline Wilson.

A high standard of competition was also witnessed at Pyle Library. The winning

duo, Isabel Davies and Nyah Pearce, from Pil Primary School showed excellent knowledge of *Baby Aliens got my Teacher* by Pamela Butchart and finished ahead of runners-up Cefn Cribwr Primary School, who were represented by pupils Luke Russell and Mali Jones.

The final chapter of the of the quiz will take place in June when the winners and runners-up from each of the three libraries will go head to head in a battle for the county borough book quiz championship.

World Book Day celebrates authors, illustrators, books and most importantly, reading in over 100 countries around the world. Co-ordinated by the Welsh Books Council and supported by the Welsh Government, the main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and appreciate reading by providing them with the opportunity to have their own book.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing said: "Now in its 13th year, this quiz has become an extremely popular event in the library service's calendar. The pupils are always very clued-up on their chosen book which makes it a closely contested competition and exciting for everyone involved."

"I would like to wish all the teams going forward to the schools county quiz in June the very best of luck."

To find out what's going on in your local library, visit

www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries. You can also like 'Bridgend Libraries' page on Facebook, or follow @BridgendLibs on Twitter.



Porthcawl library winners, Danny Markhoff and Jaynee Winslade-Gregory from St Clare's School with other competitors and mascot Sam.



Pyle Library winners, Isabel Davies and Nyah Pearce from Pil Primary School.



Maesteg Library winners, Harly Vidian and Mia McErlean from Plasnewydd Primary School.

Coychurch WI 'Taste of Wales Day' in Llanharry

ON February 28, Coychurch WI members attended the Taste of Wales Day in Llanharry Working Men's Club organised by the Glamorgan Federation of WIs in the presence of county chair Carolyn Davies, vice chairman Ann Davies and vice chairman Ann Jones; with Ann Davies giving the opening welcome address to the packed audience.

After morning coffee was served, Sue from the Blaenafon Cheddar Cheese Company gave an insight into the history of this family business run by herself, husband Gerry and their two sons.

In 2006, the company initially produced just four flavours of cheese in an old converted Edwardian house. The company is proactive in promoting and using Welsh ingredients in the manufacture of the now famous Welsh cheeses, with Blaenafon having World Heritage Status.

The company featured in TV programmes such as Country Film and Coast and Country.

With 2015 being the centenary year of the WI movement, the company put the WI logo on its Pwll Mawr extra matured cheese, which is left longer to mature underground.

Following a traditional lunch of cawl, we were entertained by Cor Canto with songs written by Ivor Immanuel and Meirion Williams, poetry and stories, with instrumental performances by cellist Gareth Blake and two young harpists Olivia and Francesca.

THE WIS AT LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL

BLESSED with spring-like weather, WI members from Aberkenfig, Coychurch, Coity, Laleston, Pen-y-Fai and Pencoe travelled together to the Service of Thanksgiving for the centenary of the formation of the WI in England, Wales and the Channel Islands held in Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, March 7.

The very Reverend Gerwyn Huw Capon, Dean of Llandaff, officiated with the welcome and opening prayers following the magnificent parade of WI banners through the cathedral; such an impressive sight to behold.

Member Penny Gregory was the proud banner bearer for Coychurch. The readings were read by Mrs Sheila Sarjeant, past Federation chairman, Mrs Carolyn Davies, Federation chairman, Mrs Ann Jones, Federation of Wales chairman and Mrs Margaret

Bourke, past Federation secretary. A truly memorable occasion in a magnificent building with wonderful singing inspired by members of the cathedral choir and organist David Thomas.

MARCH MEETING
PRESIDENT Sandra Davidson warmly welcomed guest Pat Jones and everyone present.

The meeting commenced with Mrs Hurry, headteacher of the village primary school, introducing the programme of events that had taken place at the school's eisteddfod on February 27 to celebrate St David's Day.

Some of the children entertained us by playing the piano, violin, guitar, reciting poetry, performing creative dance and the school choir sang 'Dydd Gwyl Dewi' and 'Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah'.

The concert concluded with the children and audience singing the national anthem. With such a wealth of talent the school, teachers and parents must feel justly proud. Mrs Hurry invited the WI members to attend the school for their 2016 eisteddfod.

Following the business of the meeting a draw for members interested in attending a special WI royal garden party in the presence of HRH the Duchess of Cambridge at Buckingham Palace was won by Ann Davies and a hopeful Jean Jakeaway if another place becomes available, as numbers are limited.

The meeting ended on a Welsh theme with Welsh cakes and bara brith served with tea and coffee and social time.

The next meeting will be held on April 7 at 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall with guest speaker Janet Israel, her topic, 'Know Your Numbers'.

For details and further information on future events, contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232. Guests and new members welcome to join us.

Ploughing practice

THE Vale of Glamorgan
Ploughing and Hedging Society will hold a ploughing training and practice weekend on April 4 - 5 at Caer Cradoc Farm, Wick, by permission of Graham David of Norton Hall Farm. Everyone who has an interest in ploughing is welcome to go along from 10am. Entrance to the field is via the back driveway into Caer Cradoc farm, off the lane between Wick and Blackhall Farm.

For further information, contact Andrew Studley on 07980 921990.

Regional AM to meet energy bosses at site

SHADOW
Regeneration
Minister Byron Davies is to meet Celtic Energy bosses on the site of the disused Margam-Park Slip opencast mine at Kenfig Hill.

Mr Davies, a Tory regional AM, asked for the meeting amid mounting concern about the state of the void at the mine which is filling up with water. It is now 400 feet deep.

Mr Davies said: "The company has agreed to meet me on site and we are in the process of arranging a convenient

date. I am aware of the growing public anger at what's happening to this site.

"Both Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot Councils are involved in trying to find a way in which restoration can take place but there are many factors including the escalating costs and the question of who will pay."

"I hope that I can clear up some of these matters when I meet Celtic Energy."

A public meeting has been called jointly by the two councils at the Talbot Centre, Kenfig Hill, on Tuesday, March 24 at 6.30pm.



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Stars turn out for the funeral of Porthcawl New Romantic fashion icon Steve Strange

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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CROWDS packed the streets last week in Porthcawl for the funeral at All Saints' Church of pop icon Steve Strange.

Inevitably, many in the crowds that packed Victoria Avenue had come to spot famous faces.

However, they left having been moved by Boy George's eulogy – a speech that summed up Steve's life – burning brightly (and being burned) during his time in the limelight, before retreating to live a quiet life in Porthcawl.



Left to right: Steve Norman, Gary Kemp and John Keeble, all Spandau Ballet, were pall bearers.



Martin Kemp
of Spandau
Ballet.



Gary Kemp.



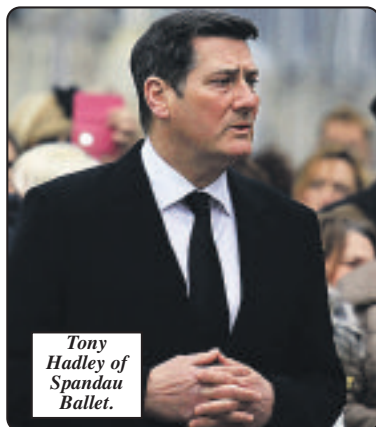
Boy George
spoke at the
funeral.



Martin Fry of ABC.



Tony
Hadley of
Spandau
Ballet.



Hairdresser Nicky Clarke.



HUT 9 OPEN WEEKEND DRAWS 700 VISITORS TO SITE OF 'THE GERMAN GREAT ESCAPE'



OVER the weekend of March 7 and 8 over 700 visitors had the opportunity to visit the site of the 'German Great Escape', which took place near Bridgend 70 years ago in March 1945.

Visitors flocked to visit Hut 9, the sole remaining building of the Island Farm prisoner of war camp that housed over 1,600 German prisoners. They were treated to lectures by Brett Exton, an expert on the history of the site, and by Richard Williams, who has extensive knowledge of not just the camp but of the Royal Ordnance Factory in Bridgend.

After these talks, the visitors had a chance to see dozens of living historians in the rooms occupied by the RoF workers, the British guards, the Americans - who were there in the buildup to D-Day - and the German officers. They were told all about the various phases of occupation of the building.

The Hut 9 Preservation Group were responsible for the staging of the event and its chairman, Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "We open the hut on just two occasions each year and this event was fully booked weeks in advance. Using the



donations so kindly given to us by visitors to our last event in October 2014, we have spent the winter building period furniture for each of the rooms, buying artefacts to place in them, constructed a guard tower and built a mock escape tunnel for youngsters to experience a little of what it was like to escape. One mother proudly told me that her son had been through it 19 times!

"The event was opened by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, who stressed the importance of preserving this part of Bridgend's history. We were delighted to meet a World War Two veteran

who praised the work we have done, and our RoF living historians were able to chat to a 91-year-old lady who had worked in the factory. The interest of visitors was immense and we are very grateful to everyone who attended and donated towards our work. We received over £1,700 in donations from the public and this enables us to make even more improvements for the next opening."

The next Hut 9 Open Weekend will take place on the weekend of October 17 and 18, 2015. Places for this free event can be booked by emailing: Conservation&Design@bridgend.gov.uk



ABOVE:
First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, opened the event.



AM joins the crew at Air Cadets Squadron!



THE Bridgend AM, Carwyn Jones, has officially been appointed as honorary squadron president for 1092 (Bridgend) Squadron, and formally opened its new parade hall recently.

Cadets welcomed Mr Jones, the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, the Deputy Mayor of Bridgend, and Royal British Legion Bridgend branch chairman Major Wayne Morgan along with other guests, including members of the Bridgend Lions.

Carwyn Jones AM unveiled the plaque and declared the New Parade Hall formally open before being made honorary president of the squadron by the commanding officer, Flight Lieutenant Rhys Thomas.

The hall, a modern extension built to replace the aging facilities previously in use, provides the Air Cadets, and

their adult instructors with more space to further their training.

Mr Jones, who is the First Minister, told the Cadets: "This is a great honour for me. You are a valuable part of the community in Bridgend and I know how important it is for young people to have the opportunity to learn more about the world and gain new experiences."

"I wish you all every success as your squadron grows and enjoys this new space."

SUPPORT

The chairman of the Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion presented a number of Cadets with certificates of merit for their work and support for the RBL in 2014. Bridgend Lions Club member, Mr Henry Trimlett, spoke of the history of the strong relationship between 1092 and Bridgend Lions, where they have helped to raise thousands of pounds for local

charities over many years.

Flt Lt Rhys Thomas said: "1092 Squadron has an excellent relationship with the community of Bridgend, which we want to improve on and enhance opportunities for all our Cadets, so they can achieve all that they want. We are grateful to the Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association for Wales, which was instrumental in the preparation and refurbishment of the hall."

"We are honoured to have Mr Carwyn Jones AM as our squadron president, I'm sure that Mr Jones will support us where and when he can."

Bridgend Air Cadets meet every Tuesday and Friday evening at their Headquarters in Coity. They are currently recruiting cadets between the ages of 12 and 18, and adult volunteers to join the squadron, to train and learn a range of skills including leadership, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, first

aid and flying.

It also offers young people in the area with a much needed social outlet, providing a strong social framework in which friends are made for life and positive role models are created, encouraged and emulated. Adult volunteers are an integral part of the organisation and will also have the opportunity to further develop their skills and qualifications.

Keep up to date with the Squadron's activities by following them on Facebook, 1092 Bridgend Squadron Air Cadets, and Twitter @aircadets1092. For more information or to enquire about joining, get in touch with the Squadron via email on oc.1092@aircadets.org, telephone on 07817402310 or call into the Squadron at Joslin Terrace in Coity between 7pm and 9pm on a Tuesday or Friday evening.

JK



The First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones AM, declares the new parade hall formally open.

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EWENNY 900 KICKS OFF WITH 1115 AND ALL THAT!

AN entrancing multi-media performance set the tone for Eweny 900, a year-long celebration commemorating the laying of the foundation stone at Eweny Priory.

Titled '1115 and All That' 900 years of history was condensed into a 90-minute piece which combined fact with fiction, drama with oration and video footage with stills.

Projected 10 feet high onto a screen which filled the nave, the images came to life against a darkness lit only by the flicker of candlelight. Aerial shots of Eweny Priory and Ogmores Castle provided the audience

with breathtaking views; new perspectives of familiar places and landmarks.

Music contemporary with the period, evoked in the first half a mystical atmosphere of early medieval Wales. A creative interpretation of the role of those artisans who would have laboured on the building of the priory, as well as other figures such as a monk and a knight began the second half before a concluding section, reverting firmly to fact, brought the listener up to the present day.

The audience had been invited to dress authentically for the occasion; a suggestion embraced by many with enthusiasm. In the interval, mulled wine was served together with savoury sundries themed to the period.

There was also an opportunity to listen to a tour of the monastic end

given by Dr Eurof Evans, a recognised authority on the priory's history.

Written, filmed and performed by members of the Priory Church and community and performed for two evenings, this was the first event in a whole series, including a miscellany of medieval music with Contraband and St Donat's Chamber Choir, a midsummer concert with Caritas Choir and, in conjunction with Eweny and Corn Town Community Council, a medieval fair on July 18.

By popular demand, '1115 and All That' will be repeated in November for those who, because of high demand, were unable to get tickets.

Further details of these and all Eweny 900 events will be available via the Eweny Arts Festival website and Facebook pages.

ALISON FELTON

The Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild round-up

IT has been a busy time since the last newsletter.

The indoor games afternoon is going well – rather noisy at times as we are very competitive!

Our literary group immersed itself in romantic poetry and several members attended the ever-popular Grand Pavilion lunchtime dramas.

At our AGM the same officers were re-elected but there was a change in president. This is an honorary position held for one year by a member who has given great service to the guild.

After her year as president, Dee

Richardson has retired to the 'back benches' after 20 years at the 'top table'. But we shall keep her as busy as ever! Freda Rodger is our new president.

Members were informed of outings to Llanelli House in May and to Tredegar House in August. We have attended the federation AGM in Cardiff and enjoyed a good tea!

The next meeting is on May 8 at 2pm at All Saints' Church Hall when Mr Clive Williams will give a presentation on 'The Life and Music of JS Bach'. Do come and join us – all welcome.

DOROTHY THOMAS

Barry golfer's jail sentence for swindling DWP

by AJ SICLUNA

A SWINDLER who cheated the state benefit system to the tune of more than £26,000 has been jailed for six months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Alan Bannister (56), a former mechanical engineer, who had no previous convictions, of Barry Road, Barry, was described by his defence counsel, David Leathly, as "a broken man".

The court heard he had been secretly filmed by Department of Work and Pensions' investigators playing golf, despite claims to the authorities he could barely walk 50 yards without experiencing severe difficulties and it took him at least 15 minutes.

Bannister had been found guilty of obtaining money transfers by deception.

Recorder David Miller told him: "You committed what was a blatant fraud."

He said he grossly and dishonestly distorted his condition and his ability to walk.

The court heard that Bannister had been club champion at St Andrews Major Golf Club, Dinas Powys in 2006 and won many competitions while claiming benefits.

Said the Recorder: "At a time of national austerity, claiming benefits you are not entitled to is very serious. This benefit is for people who are virtually unable to walk."

During the trial, it was revealed that he had a taxpayer-funded mobility car after claiming he was in too much pain to walk, and he even used that car to drive to the club to play with his team, known as 'Sunday Swingers', and 'The Crazy Gang'.

Prosecutor Stuart McLeese said he continually made dishonest representations about the extent of his disability to gain access to benefits.

It was not in dispute, said Mr McLeese, that he suffered from a form of arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis,

In a pre-sentence report, said the Recorder, he still maintained his innocence of what he described as "a blatant fraud".

Earlier, his counsel said: "His was not pre-planned, cynical behaviour. He is genuinely poorly and his mobility is stretched."

Initially, said Mr Leathly, it was a bona fide claim which "soured" when he overstepped the mark.

"He has now learned the error of his ways and he is a cause celebre who has been vilified as a malingeringer."

"Until he exaggerated his situation, he was an honourable man and the chances of him ever offending again are nil. He has suffered deeply by falling from grace, and is a broken man."

Adrian Landec of the DWP, said: "The message is clear; if you commit benefit fraud, and if you are found guilty, there are serious consequences."

He said that if there was a change of circumstances of any kind, don't wait to be caught but inform the department.

'Act now on blood scandal' SAYS OGMORE MP

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies has spoken out about the need to "keep the pressure up on the Government" to help those affected by the contaminated blood scandal.

Over 30,000 people, including some of the MP's constituents, were given contaminated blood between 1970 and

1991. The contaminated blood was unknowingly received through blood transfusions which led to many of those affected contracting hepatitis C and HIV.

The MP said: "Suffering from these illnesses has had a devastating effect not only on the people infected but also on their families. Many of those affected have had to invest heavily in medical support and have been

unable to return to work.

"In the decades since the scandal was revealed successive governments have increased support, but only through a group of charities. This has meant that the people affected have been forced to rely on the goodwill of charities for help and funding," he said.

The issue was raised at Prime Minister's Questions on March 12 when Mr Cameron was asked to assure the House that the issue of the contaminated blood scandal would not slip from the Government's agenda.

Mr Davies said: "People across the country, like my constituents, have been forced to spend decades living with serious health issues as a result of receiving contaminated blood."

"As well as major health concerns, the people affected have experienced distress, personal and social hardship and in many cases even poverty."

"It is time for the Department of Health to put in place lasting support for those affected by the contaminated blood scandal which has destroyed the lives of so many. The people affected cannot get their health back but they can get the help, support and compensation they deserve."

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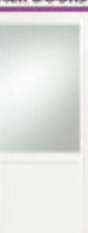
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Probus Club with friendship in mind

THE Llantrisant Probus Club (founded 1986) meets at Pontyclun Rugby Club on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am, beginning with an informal chat over tea or coffee.

This is followed by the speaker for the day and the last part of the morning is taken up with club business. Membership comes from over a wide area including Pencoed, Llanharan, Talbot Green, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, Miskin and Tonyrefail.

We are not a fundraising club, but are a fellowship club with a programme of speakers, social events and visits to places of interest.

We welcome all who wish to join us and should you decide to come you might be surprised who you will meet!

Speakers for the next three months are: April 21, talk on the Bayeux Tapestry by Sally Maybe; May 19, talk on the Berlin Wall by Jean Harvey and June 16, talk 'Five boys and a pasty' by John Sheen.

BT

VALE FORUM'S UPDATE ON HEALTH BOARD CHALLENGES



Maria Battle (centre) with members at the meeting.

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THE Vale 50+ Strategy Forum executive welcomed Maria Battle, Chair of Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, to their open meeting, who gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Shaping our Future Wellbeing'.

She outlined challenges the UHB faced, such as the area's fastest growing population in Wales, biggest increase in birth rate, and more deprived people than in any other area of Wales.

Maria updated the forum on the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital

for Wales, which will officially open in May, and the new adult mental health unit – Hafan y Coed 'Haven of Trees', due to be completed at the end of the year.

There was discussion on the future use of Barry Hospital, with suggestions ranging from convalescent care prior to discharge, to information hub for visitors.

For more information on the Vale 50+ Strategy forum, contact John Porter, Older People's Coordinator VOGC on 01446 709779, or email at jporter@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (01656 725219)

Bruno not just a pretty face

BRUNO is a six-year-old Yorkshire Terrier and a lovely little chap, but needs an owner who will look beyond his cute appearance!

He is very affectionate, but will need slow introductions to his new family. He has always lived with other dogs, and is much more confident with a friend, so he must live with a dog already in the home.

This dog would need to be laid back, as Bruno is not always great at sharing his toys! He will need an experienced owner who can continue with his muzzle training, which will be a requirement for trips to the vets.

Bruno would suit a quiet home with children over the ages of 14 years. He loves to explore new things and enjoys



his walks, but then he would like nothing more than getting back and having a nap in front of the fire!

Bruno is a real sweetie for someone who will understand him, but if he's not for you, we have lots of other lovely dogs looking for homes. Call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we're open 12-4pm every day except Wednesday.

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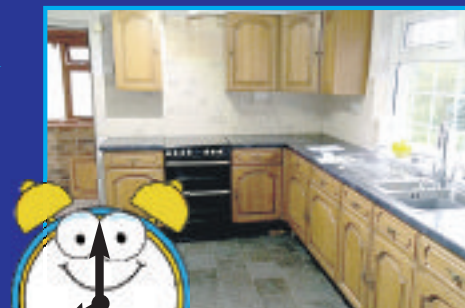
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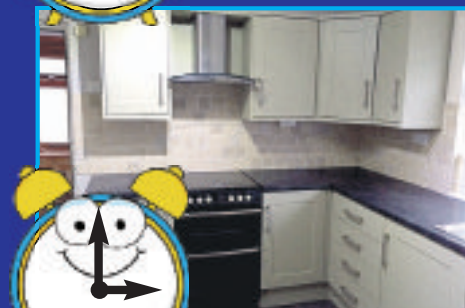
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Celebrity Tug-of-War raises £32,495 for Barnardo's Cymru

THE High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Liz Singer, pulled out all the stops to support a charity close to her heart recently.

Having been a volunteer fundraiser for Barnardo's for over 40 years, Liz roped in local companies and a number of familiar faces to take part in the High Sheriff's Celebrity Tug-of-War in aid of the charity chosen during her year of office.

It was an invitation that certainly pulled on the heart-strings of participants and spectators, as the event in the grounds of Pencoed College raised an impressive £32,495.08.

Among the well-

known names who took up the slack at the event were Derek Brockway, Sue Charles, Roy Noble, Ryan Jones, Jamie Baulch and Tom Shanklyn. Master of ceremonies was Wynne Evans, the legendary Carmarthen-born tenor and Welsh National Opera principal, who is also the famous face and voice of GoCompare.com.

"Barnardo's Cymru helps thousands of people in Wales each year and it's a privilege to lend our support to such a worthwhile cause," said Liz. "The Celebrity Tug of War exceeded all our expectations and we were thrilled with how people got behind it to

raise such a great amount and I'd like to extend a big thank you to those that made the event such a success."

The Sinclair Group supported the day with its own celebrity team and provided its Mercedes-Benz of Bridgend showroom as the venue for the cheque presentation to Yvonne Rogers, Director of Barnardo's Cymru.

"As a charity, we rely on voluntary funds for us to remain independent – so donations such as this from the High Sheriff's Committee are essential for us to carry on helping disadvantaged children and young people in Wales," explained Yvonne.

"We're very grateful

for the support from the High Sheriff's Committee and thank everyone who took part in what was an excellent day and contributed to raising such a fantastic amount for Barnardo's Cymru."

The impressive fundraising total will enable Barnardo's Cymru to continue its work with vulnerable children, young people, families and communities, the charity dedicated to helping these people build a better future.

Currently, Barnardo's Cymru operates 88 invaluable projects across Wales, which require £3 million each year to keep operating.

KATY MILLS

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Leanne emphasised: "We have a wide range of styles available to view at our client's homes. This is a unique opportunity to talk to our customers about their experience and see for themselves the quality of our work."

Dean added: "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. There is no need to concern yourself with

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN VALE



A NUMBER of representatives from schools and organisations across Wales attended an event hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council on March 6 to celebrate International Women's Day.

At the Memorial Hall, Barry, they heard inspirational speakers and celebrated achievements of women across the world.

Speakers included Sport Wales' chief executive Sarah Powell, the first woman to hold the position in the organisation, Cathy Kennedy from Chwarae Teg, currently co-ordinating the Diversity in Democracy project

for Welsh Government, Coun Baroness Anita Gale of Blaenrhondda and Lowri Jones from the organisation Women in Public Life.

The event included entertainment from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg students and 'Music in the Vale' harpist, Anwen Fardy.

Brooks, Vale Council cabinet member and diversity and domestic violence champion outlined the importance of gender equality in the council.

She said: "As a large public sector employer in the Vale, the council is aware of its role to

promote best practice in terms of women's rights and to work hard to achieve real equality of opportunity.

"It is a central pillar of our employment practice that decisions are made on the absolute basis of merit and skill and nothing else."

New chair of governors rejoins Atlantic College

UWC Atlantic College, based at St Donat's, has announced the appointment of economist Professor Jonathan Michie as chair of its board of governors.

Professor Michie has served as president of Kellogg College for the past seven years, and during that time it has grown to become the University of Oxford's largest and most international graduate college.

He will replace Stephen Cox on July

1 – the former executive director of the Royal Society, whose five-year tenure saw the founding college of the United World College movement celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Professor Michie, said: "It is an honour to be re-joining the UWC Atlantic College community as chair of the board of governors. My time as a student at the college has served as the foundation of my academic and professional career."

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Out and About with The GEM

Still Alice an inspiring and heartbreaking story



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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Talk on Twitter –
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WHEN Julianne Moore took to the stage to pick up the Oscar for best actress last month, few would have complained that the always watchable actress finally had her hands on the golden statue after numerous nominations and countless terrific performances.

The film she won the

award for, *Still Alice*, sees her play the titular Alice, a linguistics professor who is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease; the diagnosis sees her life change irrevocably, as her life is turned upside down and her bond with her family (husband Alec Baldwin and children Kate Bosworth, Kristen Stewart and Shane McRae) is tested...

It's sad to report that the co-director and co-writer of *Still Alice*, Richard Glatzer, passed away last week, having battled against ALS.

Yet for a man who fought so hard against the hand dealt to him, *Still Alice* is a glowing, powerful and emotional testament to those whose lives are altered by illness.

Dealing with the subject matter of Alzheimer's Disease without sugarcoating it or attempting to sentimentalise it, the film is stunning, a piece of work whose frank and honest approach truly hits home.

The crowning achievement is undoubtedly Julianne Moore's lead performance, which rightly resulted in Oscar glory; yet even had it not been adorned, it's a brave and raw turn, as Alice sees her life slowly unravelling as the disease slowly takes control of her.

It's a performance of understated power from Moore, her intelligent linguistics professor being cruelly struck down with cold, slow precision, as her symptoms run from the mundane (forgetting a key word of her presentation) to the severe and upsetting

(forgetting the names of her daughters, and even not knowing who they are).

It's the sort of material that handled incorrectly could slip into mawkishness, but Moore takes you through the stages of Alice's descent in stark detail, at no point do you feel led by the performance, rather the performance subtly guides you and connects with you on a personal level; it's a moving, incredible turn.

It is a film very much led from the front, but the performances surrounding Moore are all impressive as the family struggle to come to terms (or flat out fail to come to terms) with the condition, especially given that there is a 50/50 chance the disease can strike Alice's children.

Alec Baldwin's turn as the husband is quietly impressive, burrowing deeper into his career as Alice's diminishes, while Kate Bosworth as the shrewish daughter is cold yet not wholly unfeeling.

It's Kristen Stewart's turn that shines brightest, as the hint of disconnect between mother and daughter gives way to rapprochement and acceptance.

That these characters remain relatable and their responses honest is a credit to both Richard Glatzer and fellow co-writer/co-director Wash Westmoreland, whose 'matter of fact' approach to telling the story takes away any of the histrionics or overly dramatic moments; it feels real, and the pair's directorial approach is similarly grounded, the

camera feeling like a fly on the wall capturing everything.

The only time they ever resort to anything overly tricky, it is used purely to show Alice's mental deterioration, the camera spinning around her or blurring. That the pair shepherded this to the big screen (it's based on a novel by Lisa Genova) is clear to see given how caring and subtle they are with the material.

As the film reaches its climax (which, like real life, ends on a sombre and haunting note), you feel a deep connection to the character, and, perhaps importantly, feel not just sympathy but also empathy that such a cruel disease can have such terrible ramifications.

That it is handled with such maturity means that *Still Alice* is moving yet affirming, a heartbreaking and inspiring film that cannot help but get under your skin.

VERDICT: Julianne Moore's tour-de-force performance is a highlight, but *Still Alice* is more than just a great lead performance. The rest of the cast impress, and the late Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland do a sterling job directing and adapting the source material in what is a raw, unflinching look at Alzheimer's Disease.

Essential viewing.
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iris* (2001), *The Theory of Everything* (2015).

What's on and where in your area...

Support for Tenovus

A TENOVUS Cancer Care quiz night takes place on Friday, March 20 at 7.30pm.

Raffle, bar and light refreshments; £6 per person, tables of six at Barry Athletics Club, Paget Road, Barry Island. All are welcome.

There will be a coffee morning in aid of Tenovus on Saturday, March 28 from 10am to 12 noon in Romilly Bowls Club, Barry. Tickets £2, pay at the door; hot cross buns and tea; raffle and some stalls. All are welcome.

Come and Sing day

TABERNACL Music Society is calling on local choirs and singers to join a Come and Sing day on Saturday, March 21 at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend in Faure's *Requiem* and other works.

For full details, contact the secretary on 07974 765578.

Forces help

SSAFA provides lifelong support for our forces veterans and their families.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on March 24 (10am to 12 midday); no appointment needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Gardener's talk

THE Llantwit Major Horticultural Society's monthly meeting on March 25 includes Grow Better Vegetables

by Companion Planting, an illustrated talk by Andrew Teague at 7.30pm in Llantwit Major.

He is an experienced gardener at Tredegar House in Newport, and will explain how decorative plants, mixed in with vegetables, can help combat pest and disease. All are welcome.

The hall is situated on the Boverton Road behind the library, at the back of the Rugby Club car park. Admission is free.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, March 25 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, March 26, at 10am, 'To Cowbridge and beyond' (7-8 miles), starting at the Cross Inn car park, Llanbleithan.

On Sunday, March 29 at 2pm, 'Start of Spring', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Also on March 29 at 2pm, 'Hare of the Dog', starting at Cowbridge Town Hall car park.

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall and will be a Gardener's

Question Time, with a panel of local experts. New members welcome.

Rotary car boot sale

THE Rotary Club of Cowbridge will be holding its popular car boot sales commencing on April 12.

The venue is the town hall car park. Entry is £6 per car and all proceeds go to our wide range of charity support. Sales commence at 8.30am but sellers are welcome earlier.

The club also runs a Rotary table – again all proceeds to charity. We badly need new stock. If you are de-cluttering, downsizing or have any unwanted gifts, we would be pleased to collect. Contact Andrew Lane on 01446 772068.

Art displays

GILES Gallery of Pontyclun will hold an exhibition by Welsh artist, Elizabeth Hopkin, from April 4-25.

On May 9-30, local artists Geoff Dawson and Emyln Hole, are holding a joint exhibition.

The Giles Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm, and Wednesday and Thursday until 8.30pm.

Giles Gallery is at The Old Methodist Church, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun CF72 9EG, telephone 01443 228638 or 07879 035921.

Rotary music finals take place this Saturday

THE Rotary District 1150 final of the Young Musician Competition will be held at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on Saturday, March 21.

The vocal competition starts at 3pm and the instrumental competition at 7pm, and members of the public are welcome.

Two sixth form pupils from Cowbridge Comprehensive School will be competing. Verity Belle Atkinson will compete in the vocal competition and Catrin Howells, a clarinettist, will be competing in the instrumental final.

Each competition will have a total of eight young musicians. Young Musician is open to young people aged 11 to 17, to give them experience of performing music on a public stage. It aims to showcase their musical talent and to give

impartial criticism and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators.

Each competitor plays a minimum of two pieces of contrasting style, with a total performance time not exceeding 10 minutes.

There are two categories, solo instrumental and solo vocal.

District 1150 winners will go on to the regional finals, held this year in Bristol Grammar School on April 19.

Each region comprises of four Rotary Districts. The culmination for both competitions is the RIBI final on May 16 at Darwen Vale High School, Blackburn, Lancashire.

Competitors in the final are all winners already – having been selected from club and area heats held previously.

RB

What's on at the Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next film for this season is *My Old Lady* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, March 26 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

This comedy-drama stars Kevin Kline as Mathias Gold who inherits an apartment in France from his late father. He travels to Paris where he discovers that the apartment comes with a tenant, Mathilde Girard (Maggie Smith), who is allowed to stay there for life, rent-free.

Mathias tries every which way to sell the flat, but is frustrated by Mathilde's daughter Chloe (Kristin Scott Thomas).

Doors open 7pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

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THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D870:

● £2,000: 114621.
● The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.
● £10: 806491, 813026, 282514, 107366, 841470, 330452, 934015, 905739, 700326, 707845, 187482, 256042, 911968, 197820, 769261, 632375, 494496, 604199, 133800, 000213.

● £5: 169611, 152025, 287240, 619577, 588890, 825271, 853893, 407308, 543941, 895756,

860807, 933776, 940953, 813827, 835206, 616568, 866652, 417412, 854437, 383169, 384121, 118747, 948447, 958683, 256103, 509263, 318836, 550336, 703618, 512603, 770939, 332751, 203886, 707579, 314263, 357855, 522534, 608840, 266708, 197816, 365678, 755934, 412910, 293535, 262897, 201490, 355334, 518992, 628700, 659034, 677953, 687148, 202562, 410094, 462244, 000844, 001720, 001533, 000892, 001044.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Film company is on lookout for local talent

THE Bafta award winning company It's My Shout Productions, based in Pencoed, is back this year, giving people from different backgrounds the chance to work in film and television.

The company, which works alongside the BBC and S4C, also runs Bridgend Youth Theatre, who recently finished their critically-acclaimed production of *Jekyll and Hyde*. Over the past 14 years, It's My Shout has been giving opportunities all over Wales both in front of and behind the camera.

Its alumni include 'White Queen' and 'Cilla' star, Aneurin Barnard.

This year, It's My Shout is coming to Porthcawl to get the community involved and will be launching its 2015 film scheme at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm.

To be involved in this year's films, whether in front of or behind the camera, whatever age and whatever background, come along to find out more at the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, March 24, at 7pm.

Visit www.itsmyshout.co.uk for more details.



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Local young performers chase West End dreams!



Stagecoach's Ghost troupe is off to perform in London's West End!

YOUNG performers from Bridgend and the Vale will be pursuing their West End dreams at Her Majesty's Theatre in London this weekend.

On Sunday, March 22, students from Stagecoach Theatre Arts School in Bridgend and Cowbridge will be giving a show-stopping performance based on the

musical *Ghost* at the iconic West End theatre. Students from 17 Stagecoach schools around the country will take to the stage, treating the audience to a range of theatrical and musical pieces.

Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds said: "So much hard work has gone into making this show a success! Our teachers and students have created an incredible

performance piece and we couldn't be more proud of them.

"Our students have had the opportunity to perform at Her Majesty's theatre on three previous occasions and also at the Shaftsbury Theatre. It's wonderful that children from Bridgend and the Vale will once again perform in the heart of London's West End."

X-FACTOR SINGERS OFFER THEIR HELP TO TY HAFAN



CHILDREN and families supported by Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales, were treated to an X-tra special surprise when they met X Factor winner Ben Haenow and his

fellow contestants recently.

There were plenty of smiles all round at the hospice in Sully as Stereo Kicks, Jay James, Only The Young, Fleur East, Lauren Platt, Andrea Faustini and Stevi Richie spent quality time with the families.

The stars took time out of their current tour to visit Tŷ Hafan and even treated families to an impromptu sing-along which was enjoyed by all!

Mum Natalie Boggis, from Aberdare, said: "Rhys and Carys had such an amazing time and were so pleased to

have met them. They are all such lovely people and Carys made great friends with Lauren and wouldn't leave her side all afternoon!"

Jay James enjoyed the afternoon and later tweeted: "A beautiful day with the children, parents and staff of @tyhafan and @Tog4ShortLives! Amazing place! Gives real perspective and inspiration xx."

The singers later performed at Cardiff's

Motorpoint Arena for the X Factor Live tour. The visit was organised by Together for Short Lives, the UK charity for all children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions.

Proceeds from the sales of Ben Haenow's X Factor winner's single will be donated to Together for Short Lives and will benefit Tŷ Hafan, along with other children's hospice and palliative care services across the UK.

AGE CONNECTS SPRING FAIR
AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a spring fair at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on March 26 at 10am and admission is free. All proceeds are for The Ageing Well project in Barry.

Local school benefits from book donation



JENNER Park pupils were very excited to receive a donation of hundreds of books from

Ropehurst Ltd. With the help of Kitley Construction the

school managed to get them into the classroom ready for use.

The pupils and staff would like to say thank you for the kind donation of exercise books.

An expert guide to the antiques trade

OUR very own antiques dealer, Mr Phillip Havard, from the High Street in Cowbridge was our presenter this month.

He led us into the fascinating world of what is an antique, what is a desirable object, and what lies in the eye of the beholder.

Mr Havard presented us with eight objects. The remit was "What is it? What date is it? How much is it?"

This proved to be a worthwhile exercise, because at a stroke, it proved just how inventive our members are. It was fun bustling around trying to date and price these objects, it also proved how much knowledge is required to buy or sell antiques, and how little knowledge we possessed even after being brainwashed with antique programmes on TV.

Suffice to say, no-one was offered employment at Havard & Havard!

LLANBLETHIAN WI NEWS

Fashion and style is as relevant in antiques as it is any other commodity.

The times are changing and many people are not so concerned these days with originality, but more with how it looks and what it can be used for. So go forth and seek your antiques, or maybe fake antiques!

The talk was fascinating with great insight. Mr Havard knows his subject well but has a refreshing open mindedness which

covered the range from antiques, which are something over 100 years old, to Maskreys and Ikea, which in his opinion can be very inventive.

It was great to have someone from our High Street to come and speak to us.

If you feel you would like to join us, we meet the second Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in Llanblethian Church Hall - see you there.

VG

Penybont team shine in league

MOTHERING Sunday saw Penybont disabled team travel to Worcester to take part in 'The Three Counties' Ability

Counts League'.

With three league games and a cup game the Bridgend boys had their work cut out.

First up we faced last season's champions Hereford in a hard fought battle but our side soon came out on top, winning 4-2. The second game was against Worcester B, and goals flew in from most of the team as they destroyed them 9-0.

The last league game we played was against Worcester A who are currently in second place. After a good start our team took their eye off the ball but narrowly won 4-3. These three wins have now taken us to joint second in the league.

After a great result in the league it was a bit disappointing losing 3-1 in the semi-final playoff against Telford, who are also top of the league.

The goals came from C Baker, G Stephens, L Thomas, A Jones, P Burrows, R Thurling and L Roche.

KH

Road bridge repair leads to charity ride cancellation

A CHARITY bike ride has been cancelled due to a bridge closure in the Vale.

The Barnardo's fundraising team has announced the cancellation of this year's 'On your Bike for Barnardo's', scheduled to take place in May.

Barnardo's will be looking to re-schedule the event in 2016.

Kate Mitchell, head of events at Barnardo's, said: "We have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event as no suitable alternative route could be found. The replacement of the ageing road bridge

between Ewenny and St Bride's Major on the B4265 will be long term and the safety of participants is paramount.

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused but would like to reassure our supporters and long term participants in the event that it will be business as usual in 2016."

On your bike for Barnardo's takes place along a 38 mile route through the Vale. Over 360 people took part last year and raised over £10,000 for Barnardo's work in Wales. The event has raised over half a million pounds since it began 34 years ago.

Charity show at Penarth Paget Rooms

THE 'Not so Royal variety show' takes place at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on Thursday, April 1. The event is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and Mind. Performances start at 7.30pm.

The acts include: Lady Gaga tribute and impersonator Donna Marie; Frankie Roma; Aubrey Parsons; Rachel Roberts, Shirley Bassey tribute; Rod Stevens, hypnotist; Emily Langford and Rebekah West.

Comper for the evening is the talented Helen Enser Morgan.

General admission tickets (tier) are £10, VIP tickets £15; glass of bubbly on arrival and reserved seating in main hall; VIP box £80.

Tickets on sale now - online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/150806> or call 07788 753 753.

NATIONAL PET MONTH & RURAL LIFE IN THE VALE



Rhian of Petherton Vets with Flossie and Flynn, her two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

As the country's population continues to grow... The UK's lack of self-sufficiency in food could be a long term problem

A new report published by the NFU has revealed disturbing new figures relating to the UK's self-sufficiency in food.

It states that at current rates, just 53 per cent of the nation's food needs will be produced from home farms in the next 25 years, with potential serious implications for the British economy, food security and employment.

The population is expected to boom over the coming decades and there could be around 13 million extra mouths in the UK by the time the country's self-sufficiency in home-grown food is predicted to hit dwindling new lows.

Currently, the figure stands at 60 per cent – following a 30-year downward spiral. The NFU says action is needed now, and from successive

governments, to reverse this current negative trend.

The report comes at a time when the public is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of British food and farming. New YouGov figures show that 85 per cent of the population want to see supermarkets selling more food from British farms – an increase from 79 per cent in 2014.

NFU President Meurig Raymond said: "The report highlights the causes of the decline in self-sufficiency, including conflicting direction on European and UK farm policy; the legacy of underinvestment in publicly funded research and development; poorly crafted regulation, and weak bargaining power within the food chain. Our report focuses very clearly on what needs to be done to reverse this trend."

"The stark choice for the next government is whether to trust the nation's food security to volatile world markets or to back British farming and reverse the worrying trend in food production."

"I know what I want to happen. I want to see a robust plan for increasing the productive potential of farming, stimulating investment and ensuring that the drive to increase British food production is at the heart of every government department."

NFU Deputy President Minette Batters said:

"The important thing to remember about self-sufficiency is that it is a yardstick for measuring how competitive we are and how much we produce."

"It doesn't mean limiting or reducing exports; it means capitalising on what we are already good at and being able to provide great British food to shoppers and food procurers throughout Britain. We know 85 per cent of the public have said they want to see more British food on the shelves."

"In a volatile world, it's really important for a small island nation to prioritise food security. British food should be at the heart of government. Get friends and family to make their voices heard by casting a vote for British food. To get involved, I'd ask people to visit www.votebritishfood.com."

The NFU is the voice of British farming and its website is: <http://www.nfuonline.com/>



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The salon is also open plan, so you can see how much your pet enjoys their grooming.

So, if your precious pooch is in need of some pampering, call Posh Pawz for an appointment and put a spring in their step!

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Happy pets need safe, clean beds

As National Pet Month approaches, ACE Gentle gives top tips on keeping pet beds stain and odour-free

Left alone, dirt, grime, hair and slobber will gradually build up on a pet's bedding, so it should be something that is washed regularly to keep animals healthy, happy and tick free.

Removing dirt and odours can often be tricky, but to tie in with National Pet Month in April, ACE Gentle, one of the leading stain removers and

detergent boosters on the market, is giving a helping hand with their top tips.

Kevin Day, from Robinson Young, UK distributor for ACE, commented: "Dogs and cats in particular are adventurous and curious animals, who pick up plenty of dirt which is transferred on to their bedding."

"Therefore, it's important that it's washed regularly. ACE is particularly effective at removing odours and muddy stains from bedding and because of its gentle formula, pet owners can be assured that it is animal friendly."

More information about ACE is available from www.acecleanuk.co.uk.

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With thanks,

Richard Williams BVSc BSc MRCVS (Owned)



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Quality pays off for new cattery

INVESTING in high-quality facilities when you start a new business can be a gamble – but it is one that has paid off for Amanda Williams at the Aderyn Cattery, Rhosce.

Since opening just 10 months ago, more than 300 cats have spent quality time in their temporary home, enjoying being pampered while their owners could log on from anywhere in the

world and check on their pet's wellbeing via the cattery's CCTV cameras.

Amanda's all-round knowledge of cats' requirements means that owners can be sure their feline friend is well cared for – and is probably eating better than they are, thanks to Amanda's varied menu, which even caters for diabetic cats!

Aderyn Cattery still has a few places left over the coming months so there is still time to see just what's on offer there, but don't leave it too late!



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'Vale Inclusive Plan' all year care for your pet

AS the days become longer and the winter nights become shorter, we pet owners look forward to those early morning walks without a torch and poo bag held in frosty gloved hands; or if a feline fancier, bringing an end to those dark winter evenings chasing Moggy around the garden, luring her to come inside with a 'Dreamie' or two before the night sets in.

Spring is a time of year where nature comes to life but unfortunately it is not just those daffodils in your flower bed, it is also those creepy crawlies lying dormant, waiting to come to life and take advantage of these changes in the season, a perfect chance for your pet to become a host.

Dog and cat owners (small

furry creatures owners too) need to be wary of fleas starting to make an appearance now as these days get warmer.

Don't wait for a problem to develop, make sure you are speaking to your vet about preventative health care. Trust me, it will cost you many times more to treat a problem if it establishes versus preventative care, not to mention the distress for your pet and the hassle of treating an entire house for flea larvae and eggs.

Most flea treatments are topical i.e. they are in the form of easy to apply pipettes that squirt on to the skin of your pet and act to prevent flea burdens developing, and kill any existing populations.

Fleas can cause problems all year round, so it's not just spring and summer that you need to treat. The same applies to worming. Ask your vet about parasite treatments and what you can do to avoid your pet developing a parasite problem.

The basics, whether cat or dog, are regular flea treatment all year round (most applications are monthly), round and tape worm treatment every three months and also ask about other 'at risk' treatments available for your area such as ticks and lungworm.

Here at the Vale we have our own preventative health care plan called the 'Vale Inclusive Plan' or 'VIP'.

We also cover for the deadly viruses within this plan (i.e. your annual booster vaccinations) but I can tell you more about the importance of vaccinations next time.

If you need more information, don't search online, just ask your vet – that's what we are here for. Telephone 01446 739739 for further information.

Richard Williams BVSc BSc MRCVS (owner of the Vale Veterinary Centre, Barry.)

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'Mr Danter's funfair deserves a fair chance'

IN last week's GEM, Mr Glyn Pooley gave four reasons against the reinstatement of the fairground on Barry Island.

Having read his letter, it is difficult to understand his reasons against the return of the fair.

What infrastructure does Mr Pooley want? There are two large car parks and a coach park for the traffic and a train station; there is no knock-on effect throughout the whole town, because the traffic would exit the island as it always has – up Ship Hill, through Park Crescent and Pontypridd Road, then straight out of Barry.

With the completion of the new link road, Barry Island residents will have a second exit to use during high season traffic. If the council would reopen Barrack Hill instead of keeping it for private use – there would be a third exit off the island.

Increased noise and disruption? Barry Island is a 'tourist resort' – fun, noise and people usually accompany those two words. People who wish to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life usually retreat to Porthkerry Park – now that really is a place of 'tranquility'.

Scarce homes are not new

IHAVE recently been sent a copy of The GEM and refer to a letter from M Davies regarding affordable housing.

It may be of interest that in Llanblethian and Cowbridge Parish Magazine of June 1937, the Rev Gilbert Williams comments: "What a pity that young people have to settle down elsewhere

He states the return of the fair and its "proximity to a large supermarket and up to 2,000 new dwellings: placing it at the centre of a mainly residential area".

How can it be at the centre? The new housing development is at the Waterfront.

Overdevelopment? Yes, Mr Pooley is correct with this point but he's not directing it at the right subject, i.e. Nell's Point, the worst development in the history of Barry. Residential houses were built on Nell's Point against the wishes of Barriars.

These houses were misplaced, unattractive, lacking in good proportion and sitting on land that was given to the people of Barry for leisure pursuits. The legality of the sale of the land has been disputed in the past and has still not been resolved to the satisfaction of Barriars.

Allow Mr Danter to bring back the fair, the fun and vibrancy, the hustle and bustle. If he can make it viable, it will bring more employment; it will boost the local businesses and bring more visitors to Barry Island. If he fails, it will be at his own cost – but at least give him a chance.

H Spierling (artist), Barry.

'My family is not better off'

WITH reference to Mrs LJ Ware's letter 'Tory plan is working', I read her facts with interest, but feel I must comment.

Both my partner and I work for charities; after eight years of not even a cost of living rise, my employers were able to give me a 2 per cent rise – not because of the economy, but because we have been ingenious, sparing and hard working.

My partner's company is still unable to commit to a rise, because of the demands of tendering and cuts to budgets to important services.

The family tax credit threshold cuts also hurt us and other working people struggling to get by.

The drop in unemployment leaves me wondering if more people have jobs, or have more people lost their benefits and are now relying on foodbanks and charity from friends and family.

Tax cuts will always benefit those on higher wages, obviously.

Mrs Ware, I can assure you this household is not feeling the benefit of a Conservative government; in fact, the last time I was this badly-off was during the last Conservative period in power.

Sue Eldridge, Barry.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Developers were not 'let off' in Colwinston

YOUR correspondent (March 12, page 18) writing about the percentage of social housing in a new development for Colwinston has missed out two crucial pieces of

information:

The waiting list for social housing in Colwinston is fairly small; it is less than 35 per cent of the development in question. The need for social housing in Colwinston will be met by the 25 per cent of the development earmarked as social housing.

The developer was not let off the usual requirement for 35 per cent in each new development because a cash sum equivalent to 10 per cent of the development was required in the planning approval. This funding will be used to build social housing elsewhere in the Vale.

The council can tot up its percentages, and it did so. Your correspondent should ensure he or she has all the facts before criticising the drive for more affordable homes.

John Drysdale, Vale of Glamorgan Councillor.

Town must grow

IREAD the letter from David Betts with interest, and a slightly disturbing letter it was!

When I was growing up in the 1970s, I spent many happy times in Cowbridge, visiting family (my uncle was the local postman whose death was front page news in The GEM). They were a native Cowbridge family.

I recall walking with my cousins along the St Athan road when there were no houses, and when returning to Wales after living abroad being disturbed when I saw the development that is Brookfield Park Road.

I remember speaking to my uncle (who was born in The Limes) about this, and recall

him saying that people were not happy when they built the council houses in Cowbridge. A growing town is a fact of life, and people have to live with it.

Cowbridge has to grow, or Cowbridge ends up being a 'rich ghetto' for the likes of people who can retire 'in their 40s', yet Cowbridge-born people cannot afford to. Perhaps the opponents should put the good of all the people of Cowbridge first, and not just the ones with lots of money!

There are many Cowbridge people who would love to smell the roses, yet cannot afford to!

Michael Alan Cridland, St Athan

Barry needs its countryside too!

WE are writing in response to an article that was published last week, written by Mr and Mrs Giles Betts, from Cowbridge.

We cannot decide whether this article is genuine or a wind up.

If it is genuine, then it is the most arrogant, provocative, snobbish article we have ever read. We in Barry also deserve to have our countryside protected.

Mr and Mrs Giles Betts state that houses should be built in Barry and not Cowbridge,

why? They do not give any reasons to support their argument.

Barry and other towns/villages in the western Vale have and continue to take more than their fair share of housing, without any associated improvements to the infrastructure and services. It is a problem for all of us.

Cowbridge is an affluent area with high property prices where residents' offspring find it difficult to purchase a home in the town where they grew up. Why then would anybody deny them this opportunity?

Debra and Frank Cleland, Barry.

'Put local horror top of the agenda'

ONGOING EFFORTS to upgrade the Barry Island esplanade are welcome, but the derelict site which was formerly one of the UK's best known funfairs, blights any piecemeal improvements.

Notwithstanding wrangling between the owners of the site, the Barry Island Property Company, the Vale Council, and a Midlands amusements

entrepreneur, it must surely be the case that the site constitutes a public amenity (it has been since at least the beginning of the last century); and as such it behoves the powers that be to enforce its restoration to its original purpose.

If the Welsh Assembly finds itself unable to grant the funds, there is such a thing as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Is not Barry Island part of our national heritage? Certainly, the late great

Gwyn Thomas would have deemed it such.

In the 1990s, I was instrumental in raising £4m from the HLF to build an art gallery in West Sussex (net cost approximately £10m). This was achieved in a town with half the population of Barry.

When the then local council here in Barry was deliberately allowing the Cold Knap swimming pool, with its Art Deco 'chalets', to sink into disrepair, I was consulted by the Twentieth Century Society.

We failed to save it. The result is a useless, ugly field. If the Barry Island fiasco persists, we will end up with yet another hideous housing estate.

I despair of any local council and devolved Assembly incapable of getting its planning and fundraising act together. If this local horror is not at the top of the agenda of Alun Cairns MP and AM Jane Hutt, then what is?

Andrew Gibbon-Williams, Barry.

'Cemetery Approach begs some questions'

THE Save Cemetery Approach Action Group has been monitoring events since the developer withdrew from the public inquiry in 1998.

Early in 1999, the group first drew the Vale Council's attention to its responsibilities under Paragraph 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906.

The Act says that a local authority should hold and administer the open space in trust to allow, and with a view to, the enjoyment thereof by the public as an open space, and maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

We have also written to the council on several occasions over the last seven years stressing the importance of involving and working with the community.

We were pleased with the pre-election promises to do something about this special area in 2012; very disappointed with the lack of engagement with the community; pleased with the proposed centenary field proposal and, following my question at a council meeting, content with the promise to clear the site.

However, we are

puzzled with the seemingly abortive grant application and the half-hearted attempt to clear the grounds.

Members of the action group have sought information through the Freedom of Information Act; tried to clarify the status of the grant application by writing to the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant providers, and are still seeking to clarify the latest situation with that application.

The time has come for the council to publicly and clearly state what on earth is going on by answering the following questions.

Why hasn't the council fully engaged the public in the future of this loved open space?

Why has the council failed to live up to its responsibilities under the Open Spaces Act?

Why does the open space still look like a dumping ground?

Why was there such a delay with the grant application?

What is the problem with the apparent failure of the grant application?

How does the council intend to move forward with this project?

Nette Harkus, Save Cemetery Approach Action Group member.

Share your news and views with us - email: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk See more readers' letters on page 24

Marketing of IT 'apps' – students' training session



IT and business studies students working together to create smartphone apps.

STUDENTS at Cardiff and Vale College have been given training and advice on how to set up and market their own smartphone apps.

Enterprise education expert Rich Strudwick and coding specialist Craig Thomas have held a series of workshops for students. First they had to come up with ideas for apps, then Craig helped them create the apps and a final workshop was held to investigate selling the apps and creating a market for them.

"It's great – the students have been really engaged," Rich Strudwick said. "It's a good blend, using skills picked up in college and applying them to real life situations. We have business studies and IT students working together in ways that they might not normally get the opportunity to do."

Some of the ideas the students had could be developed into commercial products, Rich added.

Level 3 software development student Sam Phillips said: "The skills I have gained here will help me complete my course."

Naomi Baelz, an IT (business) student from

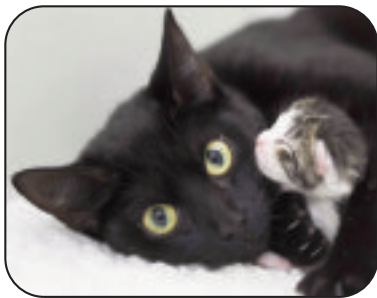
Barry, added: "The best part was discussing product ideas and getting feedback on how to make it better."

Jeremy Aquinaldo, a software development student from Penarth, said: "Learning how to make a high fidelity prototype was very useful."

Abbas Iqbal, another software development student, said: "The best part was planning and creating a prototype and planning the way forward."

The workshops were part of the College's B#Epic programme, a series of extra-curricular fun activities designed to boost students' skills while equipping them with the qualities needed for the workplace.

Moggy mums desperately need homes!



Zsa Zsa is looking for a home. PHOTO by SUE DOBBS

LIKE many human mothers being celebrated on March 15, the moggy mums at Cats Protection have done their fair share of child rearing, and now it's time to relax and enjoy the comfort of a forever home.

One super-mum who is overcoming the odds to look after her kittens is one-year-old Zsa Zsa.

She and her kittens were taken in by Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre on St David's Day after being abandoned by their owners when they were evicted from their property.

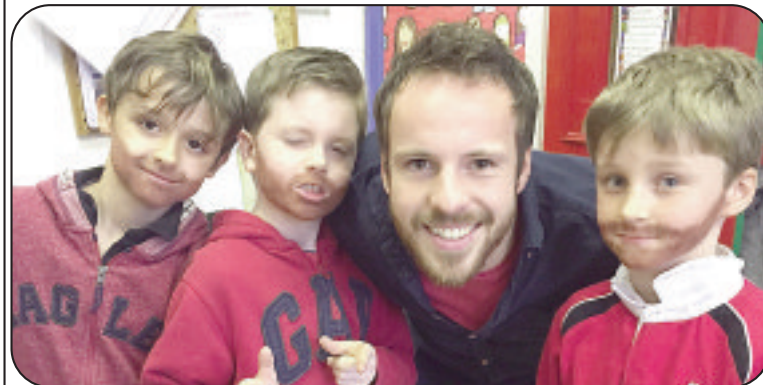
Zsa Zsa and her kittens, Ziggy, Zara and Zina, will be available for adoption once the kittens have been reared. Zsa Zsa will be neutered

before she is homed, to avoid any more unplanned litters.

Centre Manager, Sue Dobbs, said: "Zsa Zsa is a beautiful girl and she's doing a great job of raising her kittens despite what's happened to her in the past. We're really looking forward to seeing her go to a permanent home once she's raised her kittens."

"However, she is just one of many cat mums in Cats Protection's care that are in need of their own forever home. And while kittens do make a lovely addition to any home, their mothers make an equally wonderful addition. I'd like to urge anyone thinking about getting a new cat to give a moggy mum a chance."

If you are interested in adopting a cat, contact Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre on 01656 724396.



WESTBOURNE PUPILS ENJOY RED NOSE DAY



Businessman skydives to help Felix

A LOCAL business owner has been set a high-flying fundraising goal after being touched by an appeal on Facebook.

Jason Jenkins, who runs Securahome, asked the company's Facebook and Twitter followers to nominate the charities they thought needed support in 2015. A number of charities were put forward, but the 'Go Felix' campaign had the highest number of nominations.

When Jason read about two-and-a-half year old Felix Forbes, he knew he needed to do something to help the family, who live in Penarth.

Felix was born with a very rare genetic brain disorder called Lissencephaly and Miller-Dieker Syndrome. The condition meant that during pregnancy, his brain didn't fully develop the full six layers a normal functioning brain has, but instead has only four.

Even basic functions like swallowing food or holding up his own head is a challenge for Felix, but he has responded well to therapy.

The Forbes family, who hail from Swansea, are trying to raise £50,000 for extra therapy and equipment for Felix to help improve his quality of life.

Jason said: "As parents, Alex and Dan are trying to do their very best for their son and give him the best quality of life possible, I felt that we, as a company,



Jason Jenkins will be skydiving for the 'Go Felix' fund.

needed to do something to help.

"My staff, however, decided I needed to do something big and got in touch with Skydive Swansea! I've never done anything like this before, so I'm not sure what to expect, but I'm pretty sure there will be a few nerves on the day!"

The parachute jump takes place on Good Friday, April 3, and Jason has set up a Just Giving page to collect sponsorship.

Felix's mother Alex, who recently had another baby, said she had been overwhelmed with the support that they had received from people in Swansea and across south Wales.

She said: "It's wonderful to hear that Jason is raising money for Felix and that so many people nominated us. It has been incredible and very humbling to get so much support from people who have read or heard Felix's story."

To sponsor Jason's skydive go to: www.justgiving.com/felixskydive.



WESTBOURNE Junior School definitely made their faces funny for money last week.

For a donation, children were allowed to come to school in their own clothes and had to wear at least one red item. They could also pay to have their faces painted by the teachers.

The children chose lots of different designs for their faces, some of the most popular being animals, pirates and superheroes.

Several children chose to be painted like one of the teachers, so we had six 'mini Mr Murrys' as well as the real Mr Murray!

One of the most popular parts of the day was when the children bought raffle tickets for a prize draw, the prize being to paint a teacher's face! This resulted in some scary looking faces, as well as some beautiful designs and a few more animals.

Parents were able to enjoy seeing all the funny faces at Friday afternoon assembly. The school also had a cake sale at break time and over the day raised £220 for the Red Nose Day charities.

CC

S4C limbers up for RWC!

S4C HAS secured the rights to broadcast the Rugby World Cup 2015 in England – and the channel will provide an attractive package of live matches, highlights, analysis and chat

S4C's Rugby World Cup 2015 coverage will include nine live games, covering all the Welsh games throughout the tournament.

And whatever fate awaits Wales in the tournament, S4C will broadcast one live match

from the quarter-finals, one match from the semi-finals, the bronze match and the final itself.

S4C's coverage begins on September 18 with the Opening Ceremony and the tournament's first match between England and Fiji at Twickenham.

Wales' Rugby World Cup campaign begins on September 20 in the Millennium Stadium against Uruguay. Wales will then face England at Twickenham on September 26. On October 1, Wales will face Fiji in Cardiff and the all-important Australia v Wales will be on October 10 at Twickenham.

Leaving well alone at the Fonmon Apiary!

THE days are getting longer and some are even warm enough for the bees to venture out but no internal inspection has been done yet.

Clean hive parts are ready though some still require a little attention. Until we get regular temperatures of 10°C or more, the bees will be observed but left well alone. Should I judge that a colony requires feeding, this will be done using either liquid feed or perhaps the sugar dough.

At present, when the bees are venturing out, many are returning laden with pollen and this is a very encouraging sign.

However, two of my colonies have died out, but this was because they had swarmed last year and the new Queens did not get mated, and colonies with a non-functioning Queen are in no way prepared for the winter shut down.

I could have attempted to unite them with a Queen-right colony but failure on my part to do this led to their demise. That is not good beekeeping! As ever, I

pledge to do better this coming season.

My beekeeping has spanned some 40 years, and I am getting older. Beekeeping activities do demand a certain level of fitness and there are days when I know how old I am. In the coming years it is my intention to reduce the number of colonies that I look after.

Also come September of this year I will be getting remarried and this will see me moving to Cardiff to live, so a change in my beekeeping will have to be addressed.

A reduction in equipment will be on the cards if any beekeepers might like to contact me to discuss my plans. I would be glad to hear from them. I am not giving up completely but my long-term plans do involve less physical beekeeping.

Contact information: telephone 01446 750709. At present, my internet provider is changing so no e-mail address will be available just yet.

Let's hope spring takes off and our bees get a good start to this coming season. Remember, we need our bees, and we also need

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

MORE HOUSES, LESS AMENITY, FOR RHOOSE

LAST Thursday, the council approved outline planning consent for Taylor Wimpey to build 350 houses and supply land for a primary school on land to the west of Happy Valley Lane.

Rhoose councillor Jeff James and I raised objections on the basis that the drainage system would be inferior to the

comprehensive scheme already submitted by landowners of the adjoining site and might increase the flood risk to nearby houses.

We added that the proposed access from the site onto Porthkerry Road would be unsuitable and cause congestion in the future. Following a motion to refuse the application, supported by the Conservative, Independent, and Plaid members of this

committee, the Labour group supported by Llantwit First, voted against, resulting in a tied vote in which the chairman's (Labour) casting vote defeated the motion.

I strongly believe that local authority planning decisions should not be political.

On Monday, the scrutiny committee (life long learning) debated the library issues. Various speakers including Adam Riley (Rhoose group) councillors Jeff James, Chris Franks, Ian Johnson and I put forward a case for keeping Rhoose and Dinas Powys libraries open.

It was argued that both these libraries served large populations and met the needs of residents. Points raised included the fact that Rhoose served a current population of 7,000 (expanding rapidly due to recent approval for 800 houses), while Cowbridge had 6,000 inhabitants with

excellent library facilities employing seven staff, while Rhoose employed just two part-time.

It was stated that residents were unhappy with the consultation process, and suggested that a decision had been reached prior to any discussions. A motion to keep both libraries open, put forward by Nic Hodges, was supported by the Conservative members and Plaid but defeated by Labour, who were supported by Llantwit First.

Coun Fred Johnson countered my statement that Rhoose was lacking amenity by stating that Rhoose was getting a new school. The developer is legally bound to set aside a small percentage of the land for other uses anyway, and is not giving anything away. There have been cases in the past in the Vale where promises for a school have not come to fruition.

Coun Philip Clarke, Rhoose.

'Police cannot be above criticism'

MR KJ WATTS, a Tory councillor and a senior policeman during the miners' strike, is "appalled" by Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood's criticism of the police role in the strike.

I personally witnessed police beating miners across the head with truncheons and waving their pay slips at the pickets to provoke them.

Will Cowbridge make 'best town' lists in the future?

LAST week, The GEM and local people responded with enthusiasm to the survey in The Times promoting St Hilary as one of the best villages in the UK to live in.

I wonder if equal prominence will be given to the survey this week that promotes Cowbridge as one of the best towns, but adds the rider that "The only potential cloud on the horizon is the proposed development of 390 new homes just outside the town".

As The Times, suggests there is indeed vociferous protest. When the negative impact of the Darren Farm development achieves national recognition of this nature, perhaps the Vale of Glamorgan planners will realise the widespread understanding of the damage that is threatening the community for which they have responsibilities.

Cowbridge will not appear in this list in the future should Darren Farm go ahead. **D B Webb, Cowbridge.**

High Sheriff's pulling power boosts Barnardo's Cymru



HIGH Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Liz Singer, pulled out all the stops to support a charity close to her heart.

Having been a volunteer fundraiser for Barnardo's for over 40 years, Liz roped in local companies and a number of familiar faces to take part in the High Sheriff's Celebrity Tug of War in aid of the charity chosen during her year of office.

It was an invitation that pulled on the heart-strings of participants and spectators as the event in the grounds of Pencoed College raised an impressive £32,495.08.

Among the well-known names who took up the slack at the event were Derek Brockway, Sue Charles, Roy Noble, Ryan Jones, Jamie Baulch and Tom Shanklyn. Master of ceremonies was Wynne Evans, the legendary

Carmarthen-born tenor and Welsh National Opera principal, who is also the famous face and voice of GoCompare.com.

"Barnardo's Cymru helps thousands of people in Wales each year and it's a privilege to lend our support to such a worthwhile cause," said Liz. "The Celebrity Tug of War exceeded all our expectations and we were thrilled with how people got behind it to raise such a great amount and I'd like to extend a big thank you to those that made the event such a success."

The Sinclair Group, South Wales' biggest motor retailer, supported the day with its own celebrity team and provided its Mercedes-Benz of Bridgend showroom as the venue for the cheque presentation to Yvonne Rogers, director of Barnardo's Cymru.

Yvonne explained: "As a

charity we rely on voluntary funds for us to remain independent, so donations such as this from the High Sheriff's Committee are essential for us to carry on helping disadvantaged children and young people in Wales.

"We're very grateful for the support from the High Sheriff's Committee and thank everyone who took part in what was an excellent day and contributed to raising such a fantastic amount for Barnardo's Cymru."

The impressive fundraising total will enable Barnardo's Cymru to continue its work with vulnerable children, young people, families and communities, the charity dedicated to helping these people build a better future. Currently, Barnardo's Cymru operates 88 invaluable projects across Wales, which require £3 million each year to keep operating.

'Council tax up, services down'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has struck again! Every year the council tax goes up.

Is it to pay high salaries to councillors, and their husbands or wives who are also being paid as councillors... talk about keeping it in the family. Still I don't think they have too much concern with these rises.

Now we have a service charge for black bags which were initially already paid for within the council tax charges, and allegedly a further charge for the removal

of larger household items such as sofas beds etc. To top all of that, the recycling drops at Halfords, the old destructor depot on Court Road, Waitrose and at the Ship Inn have all closed. Have you no concern for Barry folks that can only get to these places?

Why will we now be paying £117 for this Police Commissioner? The only police I ever see can be found at Morrison's on most days of the week, I thought perhaps the police station had been moved there.

Rob Turner, Barry Island.

Charging for food bags would be 'ridiculous'

IHAVE been told the Vale Council is planning to charge for food waste bags, and it will start this April.

This is ridiculous, ill-planned and will result in people putting food waste back into the black bags for landfill, the very waste we want to keep out of landfill.

This waste creates methane gas as it rots. This harmful gas is 22 times more damaging than CO2 for the environment.

I am sure this is going against the EU landfill directive.

We seem to have a money grabbing, environmentally unfriendly waste management team in our council!

Are we not paying enough council tax already? If the Vale needs to save money then get rid of the backward-thinking people running the waste management in the Vale. **Chris Owen, Cowbridge.**

Spot the party in candidate's paper

IHAVE received yet another expensively-produced pseudo-newspaper from Alun Cairns MP, and am still very puzzled why he is so reluctant to describe himself as Conservative.

In The Chronicle, the word Conservative appears once, in small print on the bottom of page 4.

Is Mr Cairns shy, or does he realise Conservatives have much to be ashamed of? **Brian Morris, Barry.**

Young Farmers put Glamorgan on the entertainment map

GLAMORGAN Young Farmers shone brightly at the Wales YFC Entertainment Feast Weekend.

A highlight of the Wales YFC calendar is the 'Entertainment Feast', which sees Welsh and English language clubs take to the stage for the highly anticipated annual drama competition. Over the weekend of festivities, other competitions are also held as eliminators to the national competition.

Swansea Grand Theatre set the scene for this year's competition, welcoming a sell-out audience to enjoy the YFC performances.

Glamorgan YFC representatives took part in the English speaking competitions and definitely made an impression on their respective judges.

Laura Elliott from Gower YFC submitted a form prior to the competition day and was then interviewed by a panel of judges about various topics including young farmers, her commitment to the movement along with her personal and professional outlook.

Laura proved popular with the judges as she received the accolade of

the Wales YFC Senior Member of the Year title and will now go forward to the national competition next month in Torquay.

Bridgend YFC member, Beth Granville, competed in the junior member of the year competition. Each competitor was required to submit a curriculum vitae and a personal statement beforehand and give a short presentation on the day followed by an interview with a panel of judges asking questions about the competitor's background and Young Farmers involvement.

Beth did extremely well and was placed in the top three runner-up positions.

Representing Glamorgan in the commercial dance competition was an all-female team from Maendy YFC who performed to a medley of Usher songs. Their high standard of dance ability and interpretation of the music resulted in them winning the competition. The team will now represent Wales at the national YFC finals next month.

The last results to be presented were for the highly-regarded pantomime competition. Judge, Brian Sullivan, had the important task of adjudicating the seven

English language casts from around Wales.

Maendy YFC were the first to take to the stage with their original production of 'Camels and Guile upon the Nile'. Dame Cleopatra led the Egyptian-themed performance with a huge measure of traditional panto humour, gags and puns.

The support and participation from the crowd was incredible, which helped the 44-strong cast aged between 12 and 26 to perform to their best ability.

The competition for the top spot was highly contested and unfortunately Glamorgan were narrowly pipped to the post and received

second place.

In true stage fashion, the show must go on and the members are now looking to their next competitions. For some, this will be the Wales YFC public speaking day on Saturday, March 21 at Builth Wells, and for others, Glamorgan YFC Field Day at Amelia Trust Farm Park on Saturday, April 4.

To find out more about Glamorgan YFC, visit www.glamorganyfc.com, contact county organiser Gwyneth Thomas on 07779 331839 or email Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk. You can also like 'Glamorgan YFC' on Facebook or follow @GlamorganYFC on twitter.

AM criticises council tax rise

REGIONAL AM Andrew RT Davies has added his voice to those criticising the recent Vale Council tax rise of 3.9 per cent.

Mr Davies said: "We all appreciate the financial pressure that local authorities are under following the Welsh Labour Government's cuts to the budget this year.

"In England, under the Conservative-led coalition, council tax has again been frozen and the treasury has made money available to the Welsh Government to do the same.

"Welsh Conservatives have long campaigned for a freeze in council tax. Labour refuses to use that money to freeze council tax here in Wales.

"This will cost the average family an extra £40 and will hit the least well off hardest."

School opens new play area



VALE MP Alun Cairns joined pupils and staff at Palmerston Primary School in Barry for the official opening of a new PlayPod facility in the school playground.

Mr Cairns joined pupils, teachers and staff from Dow Corning, the local firm that donated funds to install the new facility. The new pod makes use of

scrap from businesses for children to learn and play with in the playground.

Mr Cairns said: "I was very impressed with the new PlayPod that has now opened at the school. A great deal of effort and fundraising has gone into opening this new facility. I fully support projects that allow children to learn new ways of play that encourages youngsters through different activities."

Trust looks back on year

THERE was an excellent turnout on Wednesday, March 11, as Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, the president, welcomed the membership and visitors to Cowbridge Charter Trust's AGM.

He advised them that this was an altogether special event. The activities undertaken by the Trust over the last 11 years were being transferred to a new organisation, the Cowbridge Charter Trust; also a charity registered with the Charity Commission but offering considerably better legal protection to its members.

So the audience was treated to a double dose of AGMs!

After the formal proceedings were over, there followed a comprehensive and interesting account by Harry Hailes of the history of the crossings of the River Thaw that

gave rise to Cowbridge's very existence. It incorporated an appeal by the Trust for funds to enable restoration of the stone plaque in Eastgate that commemorates this.

This was followed by a stunning photographic presentation of the last year in Old Hall Gardens given by Linda Nottage, who is one of the garden's volunteers. With marvellously rich pictures of brilliant

borders and beautiful butterflies, it was as if full summer had suddenly arrived in the Lesser Hall!

Linda Osborn used the occasion to launch two bilingual work books produced by the Trust especially for children: one on the wild life of Old Hall Gardens; the other on the history of Old Hall and a town centre version of the Lolo Morganwg Trail, easily

achievable by children. The invaluable assistance of Creative Rural Communities and Environment Wales in helping the Trust to undertake its various works was gratefully acknowledged.

After such a demanding evening it was no wonder that the refreshments were so well received.

DT

LOCAL ARTISTS INSPIRED BY BEAUTY OF DYFFRYN

A GREAT mansion, a lost family, money galore and spectacular gardens returning to their former grandeur - Dyffryn House and Gardens have offered a year of inspiration to a group of local artists.

Vale of Glamorgan Artists, VOGA, are a group of local professional artists. They have spent the past year creating contemporary artworks inspired by the beautiful Grade II-listed house and its extravagant gardens, deemed the best Edwardian garden in Wales.

An exhibition of their work will open to the public on April 2 and

continue until the end of May.

The exhibition which is called 'A Year at Dyffryn with VOGA' will include a number of drop-in drawing workshops open to the public on April 18 and 25.

The exhibition will launch the Exhibition Hall, which is accessible to the public whenever the gardens are open. More information about the members of VOGA can be found on their website: www.vogavaleart.org.

Dyffryn Gardens is open seven days a week throughout the year. For opening times please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Support group's meeting

BARRY Breastfriends (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group) will be meeting on Friday, March 20 at 2pm at the Masonic Hall in Broad Street.

The speaker this month is Maxine White from Tenovus who will be talking about the charity's work with cancer patients.

For more details of the meeting or information about the group, telephone Pam on 07919 035658.

Antiques fair

THERE will be a treasure trove antiques and collectors' fair on Sunday, March 29 at the Leisure Centre, Broadboard, Cowbridge CF71 7DA, 10am - 4pm.

Entry is £2 (accompanied children free) and over 30 stands with excellent quality goods will be on display. This is a follow-up to the success of fairs held at the same venue last year.

Home-made cakes and refreshments. All enquiries to 02920 512349, or www.treasuretrovefairs.wales.com.

SAINTS A STEP CLOSER TO TITLE

BARRY Saints took a giant step closer to sealing the Mr Windows Second Division title with a 6-2 win over a hard working Vulcan Galaxy.

Saints dominated with their possession football and carved out numerous opportunities in the first ten minutes, but could not break down a stubborn Galaxy side and it looked to be the start of a frustrating day.

Michael Evans had other ideas and after being picked out by Darren Townsend he smashed the ball home to open the scoring.

David Evans got in on the act moments later; after being forced into the corner he somehow managed to dance between the Vulcan defence and slam the ball home from a tight angle.

Nicky Elston grabbed a third goal from a corner; after the first attempt was blocked the second fell to him to hook the ball home.

Josh Cummings grabbed the fourth with a late run beating the offside trap, and after the keeper had come off his line Cummings was left free and tapped home.

The Saints were cruising by halftime but Vulcan showed a lot of spirit and came out in the second half with a good spell and scored from a header from a whipped free kick.

Saints got back to scoring ways when David Evans was pushed from behind in the box from a long throw, and he stepped up to convert the penalty he had won.

Josh Cummings grabbed his second after a good break away and with the keeper losing his bearings Cummings bent the ball in to the far corner.

Vulcan did have the last laugh - with the game already lost, the makeshift keeper who normally plays centre half came up for a corner and scored a towering header at the back post!

GL

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00164/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Replace timber door and sliding sash windows with detail matched UPVC door and sliding sash windows
Location/Lleoliad: 108, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: St. Nicholas

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01483/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Residential development, comprising the erection of 40 dwellings and garages and the construction of roads, footways, footpath and cycleway, drainage and services, landscaping, pumping station and all associated building and engineering operations at Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad: Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00218/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Construction of a ground mounted solar PV project and associated development
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00188/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: New cattle farmstead
Location/Lleoliad: Land adjoining Greenway Farm, Bonvilston

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00208/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Erection of a rural enterprise worker's dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Land adjoining Greenway Farm, Bonvilston

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyrto o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2015/00217/FUL

Proposal/Cynnyg: Rural Enterprise Dwelling incorporating Bed and Breakfast accommodation and the change of use of land to enable siting of two Shepherds' huts as associated accommodation
Location/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the Vicarage Field, Southerdown Road, St. Brides Major

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land at Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major.

I give notice that D. R. and E. G. Davies Ltd. is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Construction of a ground mounted solar PV project and associated development.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement at a charge of £100.00 (hard copy) or £15.00 (CD copy) from Asbri Planning Limited, Unit 9, Oak Tree Court, Mulberry Drive, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff. CF23 8RS so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
 - The plans.
 - The environmental statement.
 - Other documents submitted with the application.
- at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 9 April, 2015. Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 9 April 2015 quoting reference 2015/00218/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major

Hysbysir trwy hyn D. R. and E. G. Davies Ltd. n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Construction of a ground mounted solar PV project and associated development

Cafodd y cynnyg ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £100.00 (hard copy) or £15.00 (CD copy) oddi wrth/o Asbri Planning Limited, Unit 9, Oak Tree Court, Mulberry Drive, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff. CF23 8RS tra bydd y stoc ar gael. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
 - cynlluniau;
 - datganiad amgylcheddol;
 - dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,
- yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 9 April, 2015. Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 9 April 2015 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/00218/FUL.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 March, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Hockey club's Whitchurch double date

IT was honours even as Penarth Hockey Club faced off against old rivals Whitchurch in the penultimate round of Davis Wood Hockey League fixtures at the weekend.

PENARTH 3 WHITCHURCH 'B' 4

Penarth's senior side welcomed their Whitchurch opponents to Barry knowing that a victory would likely secure the fourth place finish coveted by the Bears, but equally aware that the visitors' lowly league position belied the narrow spread of points that covered eight of De Cymru & The Marches 1's 12 teams.

Penarth started well and earned an early short corner which was put away by Phil Lane after he had beaten a couple of Whitchurch defenders at the top

of the 'D'.

Spurred on by the breakthrough, Penarth pushed forward looking for a second but, despite looking comfortably in charge, took their eyes off the ball and, with one bad pass, allowed the visitors to equalise against the run of play.

Revitalised by the goal, Whitchurch took the bull by the horns and it wasn't long before they scored again, this time from a short corner earned after a spell of pressure.

The goal was enough to ensure that the visitors went into the half-time interval with the upper hand and, while Penarth knew they would have to start the second half strongly to get back into the game, it wasn't long before the deficit doubled as Whitchurch added a third goal.

The home side hit back, reducing the arrears as the soon-to-depart Matt Lewis claimed his first goal of the season following a well-worked move, but Penarth's defence again undid the good work by allowing Whitchurch to again score on the counter-attack.

Desperate to get something out of the game, Penarth pushed forward and finally managed to nick another goal back, but that was to be it for the Bears as time ran out, allowing Whitchurch to claim a 4-3 win.

Incredibly, for the second week running, results elsewhere went Penarth's way and, despite the loss, the Vale side remains fourth in the standings.

However, there are now four teams massing just two points behind them, meaning that victory this weekend is essential to guarantee the end-of-season placing they desire.

WHITCHURCH 'F' 1 PENARTH 'A' 2
Similarly chasing an end-of-season position that would confirm them as 'best of the rest' in a

division where the leading quartet have proven to be head-and-shoulders above the remainder, Penarth's 2nd XI faced a tricky visit to one of four Whitchurch sides in De Cymru 2.

Again, a closely-packed mid-table group meant that a Penarth victory was essential to keep the Vale side on course for their target, but the home side had already shown to be a tricky opponent for stronger sides this season.

Penarth started fluently, with Nathan Townsend and Rob Harrison providing a fulcrum for a slick passing game that left Whitchurch chasing their tails for the opening 20 minutes.

Despite the absence of leading scorer Dave Watkins, the visitors looked threatening in front of goal and it did not take long for the deadlock to be broken.

Although Townsend looked to be drifting harmlessly across the top of the Whitchurch 'D', a deft reverse stick shot caught the defence napping before the ball thudded into the backboards to give Penarth a deserved lead.

With the full-strength defensive cohort of Ian Smith, Craig Llewellyn, Zbig Sobierierskii, Paul Roberts and Nick Pratt effectively corralling rare Whitchurch breaks, it wasn't long before the visitors doubled their advantage, this time with Sam Salisbury popping up at the back post to deflect home a shot from the top of the 'D'.

At 2-0, Penarth should really have been able to exert their superiority and extend the score at will, but rolling substitutions took their toll and gradually allowed Whitchurch back into the game.

After a brief period of pressure, the visitors conceded a silly foul inside their 25 and were then caught out by a quick self-pass that allowed the home side to fire home on the stroke of halftime.

Having their advantage halved left Penarth a little jittery at the start of the second period, and the passing game that had proven so effective in the early stages was largely abandoned in favour of 'hit-and-hope' hockey that was always going to be less effective against a well-marshalled veteran Whitchurch side.

Although there were chances at both ends – Penarth's inspired by the promising Devash Patel and proven Dave Thomas and Whitchurch's denied by goalkeeper Jason Harris – there was to be no further scoring as the sides remained locked at 2-1 through the entire 35 minutes.

The victory may have been slightly fortunate for the visitors, but allowed them to move back into sole possession of fifth place with one game remaining. Although the two sides below them could both snatch the position on the final weekend of the season, one more win for Penarth would allow them to put the matter beyond doubt, wrapping up 'top spot' in the 'division within a division'.

This weekend sees the 1st XI play round out their campaign with a tricky road game at Cirencester, while the seconds entertain an unpredictable Bridgend side in what could be the Vale club's last competitive game at Colcot Leisure Centre before 'hockey comes home' next season.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens
d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Romilly bowlers looking towards new season

THE new outdoor bowls season is just weeks away and Barry Romilly Bowling Club are looking forward to playing in the newly formed league format.

All division numbers have been reduced from 12 teams to eight, this will allow Cardiff Municipal league matches to be played on a home and away basis for the first time with clubs now playing 14 games which will give the league's winners greater satisfaction as this format will show a true reflection on a seasons' performance.

In preparation for the new season Barry Romilly Bowling Club are holding their pre-season meeting on Saturday, March 21, at 10am in the clubhouse at Romilly Park.

All members are requested to attend as there are a number of important matters to be discussed; also the club are having new playing shirts for the forthcoming season and confirmation of size is needed. New bowlers interested in joining Barry Romilly Bowling Club are invited to attend the meeting or contact the secretary George Trepleton on 07793 325988.

FPB

Barry darts league round-up

THERE were five matches which took place in the Barry Darts league this week.

The Cwm Talwg remain on top of the league with a 16-5 home win over the Park Weasels.

The Poachers are keeping up the pressure on second place

with a 15-6 away win over the Wanderers.

The Billy Ghosts move into third place after gaining revenge over the Plastics with a resounding 17-4 away win. Craig Harris hit a 180 and Ray Mathews hit a 114 out shot during the match.

The Mariners also had a 17-4 victory at home to the Raiders.

In the last match of the week, the Loungers came out on top in a close 11-10 win against the Hell Raisers.

RL

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for March 16:

North/South - 1st Glenda Roberts & Liam Sheridan 62.20%, 2nd = Barrie Waite & Graham Norris 59.82% and Steve Burgoyne & John Evans 59.82%.

East/West - 1st Sue Norris & Su Summerhayes 63.69%, 2nd Phil & Lou Edwards 55.95%, 3rd Geoff Tinkler & John Henson 55.06%.

LE



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Bridgend sweetshop has plans to expand



The sweet taste success in Bridgend!
Left to right: Steve Bletsoe, Freya Sykes, Meirion Jenkins and Andrew RT Davies AM.

THE Leader of the opposition at the National Assembly has paid a visit to a small Bridgend business.

Conservative Regional AM Andrew RT Davies was accompanied by Meirion Jenkins, who is the party's candidate for Bridgend in May's general election.

They visited the Ella Riley sweet shop in Nolton Street where the famous Riley's toffee rolls are made and despatched, not just to independent sweet shops throughout the UK but also to countries including Canada, the USA and Australia.

The shop is run by Ella's grand-daughter Freya Sykes and her partner Steve Bletsoe. They bought the rights to make the chocolate-coated toffees from a major confectionery company, which had purchased it some years ago from Ella.

The couple make their chocolates, toffees and sweets behind the shop but are currently looking for premises in the Bridgend area so that they can expand production.

The company was set up in 2008 in Yorkshire where Ella and her family had their own

factory. But Steve, who is from Bridgend, was keen to bring his family home to Wales and the couple moved here in 2011.

"The business has really taken off," said Freya. "We supply sweet shops throughout the UK. The traditional sweet shop has made a comeback onto our high streets."

"Our shop in Bridgend attracts a lot of customers and we stock a range of favourites that many people will remember from their own childhoods."

"We have also just won orders from Radisson Hotels and Wessex Cars to produce complimentary toffees which they will give to their own customers. We also have corporate customers from the USA and we make chocolate with the Welsh flag on."

The couple have a sponsorship deal with the Cardiff Devils Ice Hockey team which has raised their corporate profile and they are in the process of franchising the Ella Riley Sweet Shop concept so that they can concentrate on production.

Steve said: "We are hoping that a second Ella Riley shop will be opening soon in Cowbridge and then we could have a chain of

them, franchised to individuals under the Ella Riley branding."

The couple are active in a new traders association in the town. Meirion Jenkins said that they had stressed the need for some free car parking in Bridgend town centre to encourage shoppers.

He said: "They told me that the parking bays installed as part of the Nolton Street regeneration are successful in drawing people to their part of town."

"And that's what's needed throughout the town centre. People will not pay to park just to buy a few items. The council must open the town up again to enable shoppers to reach the shops they need."

"I will be asking BCBC to review the double yellow lines in the

town centre, and also in Porthcawl, to see if some can be removed."

"They should also consider introducing a free half hour with reduced rates thereafter, otherwise people will continue to visit other locations where they can park for nothing."

Mr Davies said he was very impressed with what the couple have achieved in such a short time.

He went on: "It only goes to show that there are plenty of people in Wales with the ideas and the imagination to make things happen. We, as politicians, must ensure that they get all the help and support they need from both local government and Welsh Government to create the jobs that Wales needs and to raise the country's profile."

Police warning: 'Beware the rogue traders!'

POLICE in Bridgend are warning householders to be cautious when approached by door to door traders who call at a resident's home without an appointment.

This follows on from a recent initiative in which Bridgend Community Safety Partnership teamed up with Trading Standards to raise awareness of rogue traders in the Heol-y-Bardd and Greenfields areas of Bryntirion, Bridgend.

During the operation, the Bridgend PCSO team handed out letters to raise awareness of the types of illegitimate work that rogue traders undertake.

PCSO Katie Andrew explained: "While many of us welcome the better weather and longer days, unfortunately our evidence indicates that this is the prime season for rogue traders and distraction burglars."

"In the past, members of the Heol-y-Bardd community have had work carried out by a cold caller without agreeing a price. In some cases victims have been

charged large amounts of money for poor, unnecessary or downright unsafe work by companies that cannot be traced.

"If you do have work that you need carried out at your home, it is recommended that you get quotes from at least three different reputable companies. Friends and family can also recommend companies that they have used before."

"Allowing a rogue trader into your home or garden carries the risk of allowing a stranger into your home where they can see your valuables and ways into your house. There is no foolproof way of recognising rogue workmen. However, in the past, many reported incidents have involved callers offering to tarmac driveways, do work in the garden, replace guttering or power wash roofs or driveways."

"They normally do not carry identification, are reluctant to give an estimate in writing and usually ask for cash. They rarely offer a receipt. All of these should set alarm bells ringing straight away."



Sea Cadets pictured enjoying the support of GO Outdoors.

PORTHCAWL SEA CADETS BACK ON DoE PROGRAMME

PORTHCAWL Sea Cadets is expanding activities for cadets with the restarting of its Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme.

Previous lack of funding for essential equipment had forced the group to suspend the programme, but a grant from the Dulverton Trust, along with a generous discount from GO Outdoors (to whom we are most grateful) has meant that the

programme can be re-started.

We expect to build on the success of the previous programme where many Sea Cadets achieved silver and gold awards.

The generous grant award has enabled the purchase of new equipment including tents, compasses, maps and rucksacks. Some of our cadets recently selected Duke of Edinburgh Award hiking equipment at Go

Outdoors.

Current cadet numbers exceed 30 cadets aged between 10 years and 18 years. We always welcome new cadets and anyone interested should call in to the Sea Cadets unit on the harbour, Porthcawl, any parade night, Tuesday or Friday between 7pm and 9.30pm, and ask to speak to our CO Dave Cheeseman or myself, PO Paul James.

PO Paul James

Brynteg business students impress in competition



Left to right: Jack Laesser, Owen James, Callum Griffiths, representative from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Jack Slade and Marcus Cheung.

FOR the second year running, Brynteg Comprehensive students have won the regional round of the Business, Accounting and Skills Education Competition for south Wales.

Last year was the first time there had ever been a Welsh heat in this event and this year, a team of five year-13 business studies students took part in the competition, run by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales on March 5 at the University of South Wales.

The competition required the team to analyse a business case study and outline an appropriate strategy to help the business progress.

Jack Slade, Callum Griffiths, Marcus Cheung, Owen James and Jack Laesser produced an outstanding performance to win the event, delivering an excellent analysis and presentation to a panel of judges.

They will now progress to the final of the competition in Birmingham in June.

PD

On the catwalk at Colwinston WI



'These are the models and they're looking good!'

LAST week Colwinston WI staged a fashion show by Samantha B of Ewenny.

There was a packed audience who enjoyed a glass of wine to

start the evening, while six members were 'persuaded' to volunteer as models and a range of clothes were shown.

Everything from jeans, t-shirts, crop trousers, evening wear, and

day dresses were modelled, with a red, white and blue finale.

Everyone enjoyed the evening, especially the models who are now looking for contracts from Next, M&S and Vogue etc!

How Porthcawl grew during World War One

THE March meeting of Sker WI was held recently and congratulations to the darts team on winning the recent competition – well done.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Ceri Joseph from the Porthcawl Museum on 'Porthcawl during the War'. During the 1914 – 1918 Great War the population of the town grew as there were several training camps in the area, with a continuous stream of soldiers passing through.

In the town, the troops used the YMCA building and also the Coliseum, which is now the Spar shop.

From 1915, The Rest

was used as a hospital until 1919.

Some Belgian refugees came to Porthcawl and integrated into the community.

There were also some German prisoners who helped build Griffin Park.

It was a very interesting and informative talk.

During April, we have several things to look forward to, including the birthday supper and lunch with a fashion show.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 9 at 7pm in St David's Church Hall, Nottage.

The speaker will be Mrs Pat Johnson on 'What does she do in the shed?' Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

Ann Vipond



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Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale?

Mrs Helen Silvey – **18 Hickman Road, Penarth** – Replacement roof covering.

Mr and Mrs Price – **89 Greenacres, Barry** – Flat roof porch to infill recessed area at front.

Mrs Aida Roberts – **25 Cwrt y Vil Road, Penarth** – Proposed detached greenhouse.

Mr David Davies – **49 Hillside Drive, Cowbridge** – Replace current conservatory with more solid building.

Mr and Mrs S David – **21 Lidmore Road, Barry** – Demolish existing single storey rear/side extension and construct new two storey rear/side extension.

Edwards Investments – **Former Magistrates' Court, Thompson Street, Barry** – Vary condition 24 of permission 2012/01114/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Julian and Samantha Burton – **218 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Single storey front extension and enlargement of front dormer. Replacement of front access steps and rear windows to ground floor dining and living room spaces with folding sliding door sets.

Mr Tom McIlveen – **100 Millfield Drive, Cowbridge** – Two storey side extension.

Mr and Mrs G Hill – **11 Illyd Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Alteration of internal first floor layout to provide a third bedroom; amendment to 2014/00781/FUL.

Mr Stuart Jones – **61 Murch**

Road, Dinas Powys – Loft conversion with rear dormer and single storey rear extension plus associated works.

Mrs Eirwen Jones – **96 Broadway, Llanblethian** – Removal of existing conservatory and replacement with larger flat roofed extension. Removal of existing flat roofed dormer window and replacement with new gable roof. Existing failing flat roof to narrow side extension to be replaced with pitched roof.

Mr Andrew White – **18 The Heathers, Barry** – Proposed rear extension. Comprises a single and double storey incorporating a ground floor dining/kitchen and a first floor bedroom extension.

Mrs Ceri Bromley – **11 Shakespeare Road, Barry** – New single storey side extension in place of existing garage.

Mr Raymond John – **Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen** – Removal of conditions 14/15 and 16; all in connection with code for sustainable homes, Welsh 2014 part L building regulations to apply instead.

Mr Lee Peacock – **The Moorings, Highlight Lane, Barry** – Replace existing flat roof on single storey. Extension to front of property with two storey. A two-metre extension to the existing garage.

Mr Bill Coslett – **8 Britten Road, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension and new front porch.

Mr and Mrs Shahjahan – **Neonta Stores, 5 Vere Street, Barry** – Change of use of ground floor shop (Class A1) to hot food takeaway (Class A3) and installation of fume extraction unit to rear.

Notemachin – **Premier, 107 Broad Street, Barry** – Retention of ATM with internally illuminated, halo illuminated surround with blue LED tapes.

DS Properties Ltd – **North Hydraulic Pumping House, Hood Road, Barry** – Vary Condition 10 of planning permission 2014/00920/FUL.

Mr Iqbal – **15 Maillards Haven, Penarth** – Retention of two external air conditioning units.

Mr Alex Dovey – **73 Westward Rise, Barry** – Two storey side and single storey rear extension.

Mrs Debbie Matthews – **8 Tair Gwaun, Penarth** – Conversion of existing garage to lounge, new utility room and external alterations to rear with linked extension.

Mr Simon Podwell – **29 Willow Close, Penarth** – Take down existing conservatory and construct to rear dwelling new sun lounge extension.

Mr D Cole – **86a High Street, Barry** – New external steel staircase to rear to access flat above (existing) and new front door to rear elevation and alterations to garage/store.

Mr Matt Jones – **3 Darren Close, Cowbridge** – Front extension over garage and front single storey lean-to.

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CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES



RICHARD STREET, BARRY
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LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY
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• Offered freehold and would make an ideal 1st purchase

£99,950



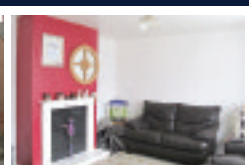
BEATRICE ROAD, BARRY
• 3 bedroom bay fronted Victorian property
• Walking distance to town centre
• Well presented throughout
• Front & rear gardens
• Situated in quiet no through road
• Ideal 1st purchase or family home
• Conveniently located close to transport links in & out of Barry

£119,950



DYFNALLT ROAD, BARRY
• 3 bed end of terrace property
• Garden to front with a good sized garden to the rear
• In need of work throughout
• Would make an ideal investment property
• Offered freehold

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CROSS STREET, BARRY
• 3 double bedroom mid terrace property close to the town centre
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• Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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Yippee I'm
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£150,000

Meadow Vale, Barry

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain



Yippee I'm
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£145,000

Woodlands Road, Barry

- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- Great Central Location
- Close to Amenities



Yippee I'm
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Barry Road, Barry

- 3 Large Bedrooms
- Stunning Bathroom
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Yippee I'm
Gone

£225,000

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Michaelstone Close, Barry

- 3 Bedroom Semi
- Ideal Investment
- Newly Decorated



Yippee I'm
Gone

£95,000

Coigne Terrace, Barry

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Large Lounge/Diner
- Central Location



Yippee I'm
Gone

£340,000

Winsford Road, Sully

- 4 Bedroom Detached
- Lovely Conservatory
- Off Road Parking



Yippee I'm
Gone

£150,000

Merioneth Place, Barry

- Semi Detached
- 4 Bedrooms
- Quiet Location



Yippee I'm
Gone

£155,000

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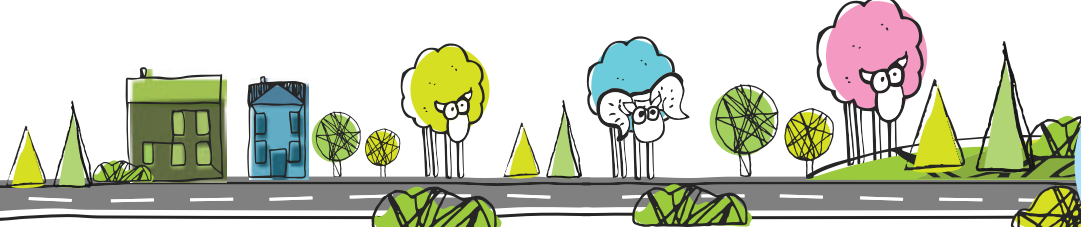


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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...



The Ogmore Valley Choir.



Cantorion Coety.

Laleston WI PRESIDENT Margaret Aylen welcomed members to the March meeting and secretary Diane Marshall read out the previous meeting's minutes which were approved and signed.

The business of the evening included arrangements for the federation lunch and fashion show in Mumbles on April 22 and bookings for the council meeting in Port Talbot on May 6.

A ballot was held to select a member to represent Laleston WI at a special WI Royal Garden Party on June 2 at Buckingham Palace, resulting in first, Margaret Aylen and second, Barbara Rees whose names will be forwarded to a further ballot at the National Federation.

The speaker Steve Gorwell, who retired from the police force after 30 years' service, gave a very interesting and amusing talk on his experiences from joining as a new recruit, through his postings in various places and his latter duties as a Traffic Officer. A vote of thanks was given by Jackie Harriss and the evening ended with tea, coffee and Welsh cakes in celebration of St David's Day.

At our next meeting on April 2 at 7.15pm in Laleston Gardening Club, the speaker Margaret Rogers will share her experiences as an Olympic 'Games Maker' at the 2012 Olympics. Visitors are warmly welcomed. For information call Margaret on 01656 660384 or Diane on 01656 656600.

Cefn Cribwr Community Centre THE committee in charge of running the centre has been enterprising over the last 12 months ensuring that the centre has full disabled person's access and toilet facilities.

The centre known as the Green Hut has been

renovated with new lighting and sound systems. The stage has been equipped with new fireproof, colourful curtains.

To showcase the venue, it is intended to provide an evening of Welsh entertainment on Wednesday, March 25. There will be two school choirs from Cefn Cribwr Primary and Cynffig Comprehensive.

The master of ceremonies is Dennis Lang, who will not only be introducing the acts, but as a comedian he will be entertaining the audience. Providing music on the Welsh harp will be Angharad Edwards from Tondy.

Also performing will be the wonderful ladies choir from Maesteg, Harmony, under musical director Wendy Murphy.

A donation from the evening's proceeds will be presented to Wales Air Ambulance.

Further information and tickets (£5) with concessions (£4) are available from Diana/Martin on 01656 856614 or 01656 740026; e-mail mgoudge@sky.com.

Christian Aid The members of Smyrna Chapel, Pen y Fai, are making a big effort to raise money for the above charity, which helps disadvantaged people in third world countries.

On Saturday, March 21 between noon and 1.15pm, the members are inviting the public to their chapel hall to enjoy a lunch of homemade soup and a bread roll. They welcome donations for this Lenten lunch, with all money raised going to the charity.

St Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr ON Friday, March 20 at 7pm there will be a talk titled 'History in your hands' by Mr Howard Williams in the church. The talk will cover the period from the Roman occupation until the 19th century. It is free and light refreshments will be provided, but donations towards church funds would be welcome.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir

I HAD the pleasure of attending the 'Cawl a Chân' held by the choir on St David's Day in the Canolfan Bethlehem, an old chapel which the choir procured and renovated in which they hold concerts during the year.

Everyone in the choir made the audience welcome and it was a wonderful relaxed atmosphere. A large part of the atmosphere is created by the musical director Eira Paskin, who involves every choir member and also succeeds in getting the majority of the audience involved. The hall was packed and every seat was taken.

There was also a guest choir, Cantorion Coety, a mixed voice choir whose musical director is also Eira Paskin.

The male choir started with the Alwyn Humphreys arrangement of 'Calon Lan' followed by two more songs. Cantorion Coety's opening song was 'Pantyfedwen'.

The male choir then returned with its soprano, Catrin Eleri Jenkin, who took a marvellous part in singing 'Bendigedig'.

During the interval the male choristers served each member of the audience with a bowl of cawl, followed by homemade Welsh cakes and a slice of bara brith.

The male choir started the second half with another Alwyn Humphreys arrangement, this time of 'If We Only Have Love' again followed by two more Welsh songs.

Cantorion Coety arrived back on stage and started with the lovely 'Anfonaf Angel'

followed by two more songs.

Then Catrin returned with the male choir and powerfully sang verses in 'Cymru Fach' with the choir finishing with the appropriate 'World in Union'.

As a finale, the choirs joined together and sang 'Moliannwn' with the audience joining in the choruses. The evening was completed with everyone standing and singing 'Hen Wlad FY Nhadau', the Welsh National Anthem.

Mynydd Cynffig WI THE president Marjorie Goode welcomed the members and chaired the meeting on Tuesday, March 10 in the usual venue, the Talbot Centre, Kenfig Hill.

The meeting had a good turnout with a new member attending, having read about the WI in the local newspaper.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read out by secretary Enid Rymer and were agreed. Members who attended 'A Taste of Wales' in Llanharry said how much they enjoyed the day, especially the talk on cheese making, as did the members who attended the service in Llandaff Cathedral to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Women's Institute in Wales. This gave Mynydd Cynffig WI the opportunity to parade for the first time with its new banner, which has recently been designed and made by the members.

The guest speaker Pat Johnson gave her talk on 'What goes on in her shed'. The members had been eagerly awaiting this talk and were not disappointed. Pat

makes felt in her shed and she told how she makes it. Maureen gave a vote of thanks.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 14 at 2.30pm, and the guest speaker is Mr Davies with the topic 'Weird Wills'. Look out for some laughs.

Tondy Primary School

MRS Susan Pilsher would like to invite all parents and friends to share in Mrs Richard's and Mrs Goldsworthy's class Ewenni's assembly on Friday, March 20 at 10.20am.

Come to the school from 10am, before the assembly for a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee and take part in a 'Linger and Learn' session with your child for half an hour of learning activities after the assembly.

There will be an Easter Bonnet Parade on both sites on Monday, March 23. Heol Persondy will be at 9.30am. Meadow Street will be at 2.30pm. The PTA will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt throughout the day on both sites on Monday, March 23.

The date of the next cross country meeting in the primary schools' cross country competition for pupils in years 3 - 6 will be Saturday, March 21 at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

This is open to any child who would like to run a short course along with pupils from other schools. Trainers, shorts, t-shirt, a water bottle and a track suit will be needed. The first race will be at 10am and it is all over by 11am.

Laleston Gardening Club

THE club is holding a



Youngsters on St David's Day.



John Jones demonstrated some of the equipment the miners used underground.

table top sale at Cliff Cottage, High Street, adjacent to Laleston Parish Church on Saturday, March 21 between 10am and 12 noon.

There will be diverse quality goods for sale and craft stalls selling interesting items.

The club has a thriving ladies' section which meets on the first and third Tuesdays in the month in the same venue at 7.30pm, new members are always welcome.

Tynyrheol Primary School

KERRY Jones the headteacher, the staff and the children decide on a value which applies throughout that week, and certificates are presented to the pupil in each class who has best displayed this value throughout the

week.

'Honesty' was the value for this week and this week's winners are: Class 1 - Logan Hume, for good ideas and reasons for honesty. Class 2 - Imogen Davies, for always giving accurate accounts of events. Class 3 - Gethyn Greest, for being honest about forgetting his reading book.

On Friday, March 27 the school will be holding its Easter Assembly. It will start at 9.15am in the hall.

On Monday, March 2, as a school governor I would like to thank Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir for putting on a special concert for the pupils in the school hall.

These choristers had willingly given their time to come along and entertain the children. What an afternoon it was, when the choir

sang songs which the children knew.

It was quite a competition as the children tried to sing louder than the choristers with 'Calon Lan' and 'Sospan Fach', which conductor Phil Davies bravely tried to lead.

Pupils from class 2 and 3 then had the opportunity to have a talk about life in the Welsh mines from the former miners, led by the choir secretary John Jones. They were shown a number of artefacts and were given loads of information.

In a series of questions by the children, the variety was amazing and the ex-miners had to keep their wits about them. Everyone was so interested, the staff had to call time for the children to be collected by their parents. The staff, pupils and

Pencoed's 'Ball' hopes dashed with defeat



Kyle Barrett.

Liam Halse on the attack for Pencoed.
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Dano Howells tackles an Ystrad Rhondda player.



Andrew Fryer makes a break.

A misty Llynfi Valley night was the setting for this Glamorgan County Silver Ball quarter-final match between Pencoed and Ystrad Rhondda at the Old Parish ground.

Perhaps understandably the Rhondda Valley side were quick to settle down, and raced into a 15 point lead in the opening quarter. Swift use of phase possession in the early minutes saw ex-Pontypridd player Chris Clayton race over wide out to open the match scoring.

Shortly after outside half Rhys Truelove stretched his side's lead with a penalty goal. Pencoed were then extremely unlucky not to score with their first visit to the opposition's 22, outside half Adam Williams putting width on the attack and only a desperate cover tackle kept them out at the corner flag.

Play settled down around halfway before Pencoed spilled the ball in their efforts to counter and Truelove with a measured crossfield kick found his left wing who raced away to score.

For the remainder of the first half Pencoed enjoyed the better of the territorial exchanges, the essential difference the clinical finishing of the Division 1 East Central side.

Williams opened the scoring for Pencoed with a penalty goal before a 50 metre kick from full back Tom Cross put them back deep into the Ystrad 22; however the Rhondda side held firm and went in at the interval 15-3 ahead, Pencoed having missed a couple of penalty opportunities.

Williams added a second penalty early in the half, but the big Ystrad pack was beginning to retain possession, and Pencoed, having lost their influential No8 Gareth Prentice with a neck injury, were forced to defend more and more.

Aaron Halse, skipper Keiron Moore, Rhys Pope, and Paul Macfarlane all prominent during this period in the defensive effort. A good scrum allowed Pencoed to clear their lines, however Ystrad countered from halfway, their left wing splitting the Pencoed midfield to send David Gratton racing over, and Truelove converted for a 22-6 lead.

Pencoed's problems were compounded with injuries to hooker Tom Drew and second row Ricky Somers, and only a superb defensive commitment in the final quarter kept the Rhondda side at bay.

In the dying minutes Ystrad's Nathan Hughes crossed following a close up lineout, and his side moved deservedly into the semi-final despite a battling Pencoed performance, the final score 27-6.

Pencoed now enjoy a well earned rest before returning to Division 2 West Central League action when they have three matches within eight days, commencing Saturday, April, 4 when they host Glyncoedwrg at the Rec, followed by Resolven, also at home on April 8, 6.30pm kick off, and will then make the short journey to Pontycymmer on April 11.

TR

Defeat for Bridgend Sports under-15s

BRIDGEND Sports travelled to Newport with the quest of winning three consecutive matches for the first time this season, but despite the Sports' best efforts they fell just short of reaching this target, losing 26-7 to HSOB.

There was a rather tense start to the game for the first 20 minutes or so with both teams cancelling each other out.

NHSOB had most of the early territory and the home side had the better of the chances to open the scoring but a defiant Sports defence remained resilient for some time before NHSOB inevitably found a breakthrough.

This decisive moment came off the back of a

successful NHSOB scrum where one of their players scored just in from the right hand corner.

Soon after, NHSOB seized the initiative and extended their lead to 12 points after scoring a well worked try where the ball was cleverly passed to their right winger who finished neatly to score in the corner. The first half then ended with the Sports trailing by the margin of 12 points.

After a disappointing first half, the Sports needed to up their game for the second period to stand any chance of winning the game. But NHSOB continued to control the game like the first half.

The Sports hopes of winning the game were soon cast in major doubt due to a further try from the home side. One of the NHSOB players

made a strong run through a static Sports defence to score just to the side of the posts.

Yet, typically of the Sports, the boys did not give up and they soon had their longest spell of possession in the match, deep inside the NHSOB 22. The Sports now demonstrated their strong scrummaging skills and this certainly caused NHSOB many problems.

Then with approximately five minutes left, as a result of Newport's failure to cope with the strong Sports' scrums, a penalty try was awarded to the Sports. Will Prosser then confidently struck the conversion over the posts to decrease the Sports deficit to 12 points.

Unfortunately for the Sports, NHSOB then scored in the last play of the game to seal a 26-7 victory.

Overall, the Sports did not deserve to lose by 19 points as the boys did not give up until the final whistle; however, NHSOB were worthy winners but the Sports could have easily won this fixture on another day.

TP

BARRY RFC will play one of the most unusual matches in its 129 year history when its special select team takes to the field at Cardiff Arms Park next Tuesday, March 24 (7pm).

Their opponents will be Sky Sports' School of Hard Knocks coached by Welsh legend Scott Quinnell and England World Cup winner Will Greenwood.

The ethos behind the School of Hard Knocks team is to give youngsters from the 'wrong side of the tracks' a new chance in life, learning discipline and teamwork through rugby, and delivering work opportunities at the end of the two month period.

School of Hard Knocks is represented by youngsters from South Wales.

Scott Quinnell explained: "Rugby gave

by TIM CHAPMAN

us a huge amount in life – it taught us when you get knocked down, you get up and go again."

Barry RFC has agreed to be one of the School of Hard Knocks' latest opponents.

Committee member William Knapman told The GEM: "Clive Thomas who is on the Wooden Spoon

committee was looking to arrange fixtures and got hold of me.

"It should be a good evening. It's going to be filmed, there will be people from Barry there and it will be nice for some of the club's players to go out on the Arms Park pitch."

Fellow Barry RFC member Ken Chow said the School of Hard Knocks was a great initiative, teaching youngsters life skills, providing camaraderie and the chance of a job.

He encouraged people to get along to

the match to support players of both sides – entry is free.

"It's going to be a good experience for our players. We're hoping there will be a big crowd and a good atmosphere."

Barry RFC is likely to field a select team of seconds and thirds because they are up against novices.

This week, the club's officials were attending a School of Hard Knocks' clash against Llanishen to give them a good idea of which players to pick to provide a fair selection.

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events:

Many congratulations to Ann Fox and Steve Burgoyne, who are this year's winners of the Max Powell Rose Bowl competition.

Wednesday, March 11: 1st Steve Burgoyne and John Evans, 2nd Norma and David Newman, 3rd Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden. Winners on handicap Steve Burgoyne and John Evans.

Thursday, March 12: 1st Geoff and Christine Tinkler, 2nd Arthur Harvey and Steve Burgoyne, 3rd John Evans and David Phillips. Winners on handicap Arthur Harvey and Steve Burgoyne.

Friday, March 13: 1st John Henson and Terry Dolan, 2nd Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas, 3rd Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett. Winners on handicap Eileen Mahoney and

Geoff Barnett.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Members can also take advantage of the 'tip of the week' on the club website, primarily to assist new players and improvers. This can be found under bridge lessons in the left hand menu.

TG

HOLE-IN-ONE FOR GOLFER!

THE time was right for a Bridgend golfer when he scored a hole-in-one during a recent club competition to be rewarded with a limited-edition BOSS watch as recognition for the achievement.

William Hughes, 24, scored his ace with a 56-degree wedge on the 120-yard, par-three 14th at Southerndown GC, and the golfer, who plays off plus two, was rewarded with membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1 Club and a specially-commissioned commemorative timepiece.

The luxury German brand has once again

pledged to reward club golfers with an exclusive watch for every hole-in-one recorded during a club competition - and Hughes is among the latest to achieve the feat this year.

The scheme is open to any golfer whose club uses HowDidiDo - a free-to-use, web-based social network for golfers - and anybody playing in official club competitions is eligible. Currently, more than 1,800 clubs use the website.

In addition to the limited-edition watch, Hughes is also awarded membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1 Club which offers its members access to exclusive benefits and merchandise.

Penybont FC links up with Bridgend DFC

AFTER discussions between director of football Mark Evans and manager of Bridgend DFC Kelly Hall, Penybont FC is taking on Bridgend DFC as their new disabled team.

Kelly said: "Since starting up our club, we have been knocking on the door of the old Bryntirion Football Club about linking with a mainstream local club and finally it has happened. We are all very excited at the club about the big change.

"A new home base for our disabled team means we can invite teams from all over the UK to play us, and enjoy the facilities in the clubhouse."

For more information about our disabled team, contact Kelly Hall on 07880 9903, penybontdisabledteam@outlook.com.

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

COLLEDGE

Albert (Col)

Peacefully on March 13 at Llandough Hospital, Col, well known of Barry. Devoted husband to Irene, much loved dad of Stephen and Andrea, cherished bumpy of Gareth, Dominic, Rhian and Natalie.

Col will be dearly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service until his funeral on Tuesday, March 24 at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry at 11am, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be sent to The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Col. Further enquiries to Lyndsay J Ellis 01446 407962.

WEIGHELL

Ronald Charles (Ron)

Passed away suddenly but peacefully on 9 March. Ron of Oakfield Road, Barry (formerly of Splott). Dearly loved husband of 55 years to Olive. Loving father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law.

Funeral service at 2pm on Tuesday, March 24 at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, followed by a service at Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium, Barry. All welcome to the service but family flowers only please, donations may be made at the service to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Towers).

HARRIS

Gwilliam John

Peacefully on 11 March, Gwilliam of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved son of the late Eddie and Beatrice. Loving brother of Lorraine, Muriel, Susan, Nicholas, Nigel, Ann and the late David and Brian.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday, 23 March in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

MILLER

Rhodri Dafydd

Tragically on March 6, Rhodri aged 17 years, passed away. Cherished son of Dave and Jo, much loved brother to Iestyn.

Rhodri will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service on Saturday, March 21. Family and friends are requested to meet at 11.15am to walk and escort Rhodri to St Cadoc's, Old Village Church, Cadoston, where the service will start at 12pm.

Family request that no attendees enter the church before Rhodri and his family. Afterwards a committal service will be held at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to support St Cadoc's Church in memory of Rhodri.

"His smile always lit up the room and will never be forgotten"

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

BOWLES

Phyllis

Peacefully on March 16 at Llandough Hospital, Phyl, devoted wife to the late Paul. Much loved mum of Jane and Craig, respected mother-in-law of Tina and Glenn. A fond nan of Lauren, Emillie, Leon and Georgia. Phyl will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962

HUTCHINSON

John Edmund

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 10 March. Loved husband of Christine, loving father of Nicholas and Melanie and grandpa to Sebastian, Elinor, Alys and Ben.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 27 March at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to the Woodland Trust (cheques only please) c/o W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major.

REES

Lionel

Dorothy and family would like to thank their wonderful family, friends and neighbours for their support at this sad time. Also for the cards and flowers and everyone that attended the service of her Darling Lionel.

Also thanks to Father Ben for the lovely Service.

THOMAS

Maureen

Ann, Mavis and Haydn would like to thank their family and friends for the support and messages of condolence received following the recent sad loss of their dearly loved mother.

RICH

John

Peacefully passed away at home on March 14, aged 71 years, surrounded by family and friends. Beloved husband of Kath, loving father of Roger, devoted grandfather of Cleo, dear father-in-law of Victoria.

Will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at James Summers & Son, Lavernock Court, until the funeral service at St Mary's Church, Wenvoe on Friday, March 27 at 3pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 4pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in John's memory may be made to Prostate Cancer UK or Marie Curie Cancer Care on the day.

EALES

Valerie Elizabeth

Peacefully on March 12, at Barry Hospital, Val passed away. Loving wife of Horace and mother of Dr. Geoff and Adrian and grandmother of Adam.

Resting at the private funeral home of W. James & Son, Fonmon. Funeral service at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major on March 26 at 12.15pm, followed by service at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Flowers may be sent to funeral home.

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He does have some medical issues, which Dogs Trust will help with financially. Bobby will benefit from living in a quiet home, with any children aged 14 or over. Attending training classes is strongly advised to help him along the way!

If you can offer Bobby the home he needs, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust; we are open 12pm-4pm every day except Wednesday.

Linda Feagan,
Supporter Relations
Officer

Tales from the point-to-point

THE first point-to-point races held in connection with the Lady Currie Hunt - as it was then known - were held at Uphill Farm, near Chepstow in 1939, and to celebrate the occasion an R.A.F. pilot gave a daring display of aerobatics over the course.

Henry Clay, the honorary secretary and clerk of the course, rode in grand style to win the farmers' race on the odds-on favourite Best Way and earlier his brother, Gerald Leigh Clay, had won the adjacent hunts' race on his own gelding Freeborough.

The women's nomination race went to Captain Tullach's Easter, ridden by Miss Patience Stratton, of St Mellons, near Cardiff - however, the easiest winner of the day was Dr Martin's Alley Boy.

Well ridden by Geoffrey Scudamore, the grandfather of National Hunt champion jockey Peter Scudamore, and father of Michael who won the Grand National on Oxo, he came home a distance in front of Hubert of Glamorgan in the adjacent hunts' farmers' race.

The Hon. Mrs Basil Mundy, who had horses with Tenby trainer David Harrison and later Fred Rimell, acted as starter and with her biting tongue - she was known as 'Hellcat Mundy' - must have been a good one at that!

After the war, the races were revived at Howick, not far from Chepstow Racecourse, and thanks to the Jenkins and Price families, this delightful course is still in use today.

It would be impossible to list all the fine riding performances over the years by the likes of Bill Jones, Colin Davies, Dick Bowen, Jim Thomas, Mike Williams, Tim Rooney and John Llewellyn to name just some. However, one that should be singled out is that of Newport-born Barry Thomas who, in 1971, rode in all the men's races on the card and won them all.

The same sentiment would apply to all the good horses that have ran at Howick but special mention must be made of Milton Bradley's mare Octroi which was unbeaten in nine races there.

Adapted from *Brian Lee's The Races Came Off - The story of point-to-point racing in South and West Wales.*

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Rhose in action at Welsh Championships



FOLLOWING a very successful Welsh Stillwaters Championship for the Rhose Nipper team only a few weeks before, over the weekend of February 21-22 it was the junior, senior and masters teams turn to compete at the Wales National Pool in Swansea.

With a good turnout in all age groups the team members took part in manikin carry, manikin tow, manikin carry with fins and other individual events as well as a number of relays, with all races involving a combination of swimming and surf lifesaving techniques.

The junior team managed by co-ordinator Steve Baker put in some very impressive performances, winning a number of medals in the relay and pair events with gold awarded to the under-19 girls and under-14 boys pairs teams in the 'rope throw' event.

Steve had the following words of thanks for the team: "Congratulations to all of those who gave up their time to represent the junior team at this event."

"All of your hard work in the pool over the winter months has been rewarded with some excellent times in the races, many competitors achieving personal bests - well done everyone!"

Likewise the senior and masters teams did very well in both the

individual and team events with many of the masters picking up medals in their races and Heddu Davies achieving gold in one of her individual events.

Well done to those members of the junior and senior teams who competed in the Super Lifesaver event also, a tough race over four 50 metre lengths with each length being a different lifesaving activity.

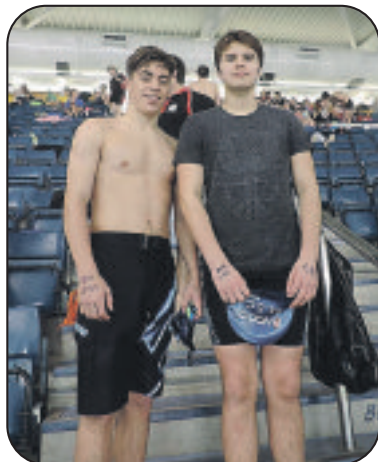
With two full days of events many family members gave up their weekend not only to support the teams but also to undertake time-keeping and other duties and club captain Simon Parker commented: "Once again thanks to everyone who represented the club competitively or helping out with supporting duties. As always your time and effort is much appreciated by the club."

The teams finished the competition in the following places with individual medal winners listed below:

Juniors third, seniors fourth and masters second place overall; Rhose achieved an overall aggregate position for the Wilkinson Sword of second place.

Individual medal winners: Heddu Davies - gold manikin carry with fins, silver manikin carry, silver manikin tow with fins, bronze rescue medley. Jon Foster - silver manikin carry, silver manikin carry with fins, silver rescue medley. Dominic Lee - silver manikin tow with fins.

JF



Measure of revenge gained as VIFC beat Rhooose to final place!

THIS Supporters Cup semi-final was the first time that VIFC and Rhooose Rovers had met since Rhooose clinched the Division Two title last season, meaning that this fixture had more than just a cup final place on the line.

VIFC finished runners-up to Rovers in two competitions last year, meaning that their 3-0 victory on Saturday tasted all that sweeter.

A goalless first half saw both sides in a fierce fight for possession with early yellow cards brandished and determined defensive displays at both ends.

During the break, Bill Laing and Hywel Dark praised their side on their efforts so far, urged their squad to keep up their performance and promised the goal would come.

It didn't take long and within minutes of the restart, Reece Lewis delivered a pitch perfect corner to the near post for Jordan Mortimore to head into the net.

Rovers seemed rattled from the sudden setback right after halftime and struggled to recover for the rest of the match.

Such a slender lead is always a dangerous one but Jamie Robinson stepped up to help alleviate the pressure with an unbelievable run.

The young fullback/winger spent the majority of the game keeping his opposite number and one of Rovers' more dangerous attackers at bay but saw an opportunity to show his ability and took it.

A powerful sprint down the left side saw Robinson shrug off five challenges before being brought down in the penalty box by a sixth.

Robinson's teammates surrounded and congratulated him as if he had scored himself as the VIs knew this was likely the set up to the finishing blow.

Jordan Mortimore stepped up as designated spotkick taker and fired his strike low, making

sure that even if the keeper got a hand to it, he would struggle to keep the ball out.

There were still 20 minutes left to play and Rhooose threw bodies forward hoping to find a route back into the game while having to sacrifice defensive duties.

The gaps at the back allowed Courtney Goodwin to deliver a pinpoint through-ball to the in-form and advancing Sean Flynn who broke Rhooose's offside trap.

Flynn, who is enjoying a goal rich debut season for VI Football Club, controlled the ball and scored his third goal in three games to put to bed any doubts of victory.

Rhooose Rovers never gave up, throwing everything forward when all was lost and their determination is a credit to a strong side.

Team: P Lucas, R Lewis, R Humphreys, N Cox, J Robinson, T Charles, J Laing, D Cleave, S Flynn, C Goodwin, J Mortimore. **Substitutes:** D Garrison, J Austin.

Bill Laing's team will have to wait to see who they face in the final as the other semi-final, Tynwydd vs Glenbrook, was postponed due to poor playing conditions.

The momentum gained from scoring against tough defences and keeping clean sheets against strong attacking players sets the VIs up well for a completely new challenge next weekend.

Cardiff Airport are up next in another semi-final - this time in the Barry Cup - and the VIs face a side leading the Premier League and who are yet to drop a point this season.

VIFC vs Cardiff Airport will be played at Barry Sports Centre this Saturday, March 21, 2pm kick-off.

We'd like to say a quick thank you to all the fans from both sides who cheered on a great game and also to our sponsors - Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Higgy Site Services, Barry and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan. **RC**

Change of bowls meeting venue

DUE to the alterations being made in the bowls pavilion, this year's pre-season meeting of Llantwit Major men's bowls team will be held in the rugby club on Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm.

All members are requested to attend and anyone who would like to take up the game of bowls is welcome to attend, where more information will be given.

NY

WHOLE LOT OF ROSIE AT POINT-TO-POINT EVENT!

DAVID Llewellyn's 12-year-old homebred bay gelding Rosies Peacock notched up win number 25 (24 point-to-points and one hunter chase) when winning the Bonham's men's open race at the Currie & Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at bitterly cold Howick on Sunday.

Partnered, as usual, by reigning Welsh champion rider John Mathias, Rosies Peacock was disputing the lead with Mumbles Pier, partnered by Richard Patrick, which unfortunately came down at the second last fence leaving Rosies Peacock, the oldest horse in the race, to finish a distance ahead of Supreme Regime.

Mathias who said that Rosies Peacock hated the holding ground also took the restricted race on Dai Rees's Romeo Is Bleeding which won by eight lengths from Jack Joner in a time which was four seconds quicker than Rosies Peacock had taken to win the men's open.

Romeo Is Bleeding, an ex-Irish nine-year-old bay gelding, will probably be seen under rules in the near future.

The ladies' open race, which carried a first prize of £200 to the winner, went to Minella For Party who was bought for £75,000 by Vale trainer Tim Vaughan after winning an Irish maiden point-to-point in Ireland in 2011.

Minella For Party, now trained by Victoria Collins in Ludlow, was ridden by Hannah Watson and scored by six lengths from Canshetrain. The odds-on favourite Lauberhorn was never in the hunt and finished way down the field.

Owner/trainer Roger Willcox was really at a loss to explain the horse's poor run after it

had won at the Brecon & Talybont the previous weekend.

Charlotte Prichard, who is a good judge of racing pace, put one over her five male rivals when winning the members' race on Jeanne Thomas's eight-year-old bay gelding Stony Road which came home a distance ahead of the favourite Doc Wells after Castlegrace, disputing the lead, fell four fences from home.

Stony Road, which also won the best turned out award, is trained by Charlotte's father hunt racing stalwart Ian Prichard at Pontypridd.

The eight-year-olds and over PPORA club members' conditions race, was won by the pacemaking Awesome George who, partnered by Leo Mahon, won by four lengths from Stratford Stroller.

The favourite Harpsy Cord, ridden by John Mathias, finished a further eight lengths away in third place.

One horse Welsh enthusiasts will not be seeing again is Tim Vaughan's 11-year-old Golan Way who blotted his copybook again by being slowly away in the men's open race and then refusing to jump the first fence just like he had at Llanfrynach.

Golan Way, a faller in last year's Grand National, who always looked a picture in the paddock, was a good winner over hurdles and jumps but sadly those days are now long behind him.

Apparently, Tim had decided his charge had 'run' his last race before being called in by the stewards who had decided enough is enough!

The first division of the split open maiden race went to Pete Ponting's Sweet Like You who, partnered by Danny Burton, easily accounted for the odds-on favourite Union Du Chener, while the second half went to David Brace's home bred five-year-old Dunraven

Royal which won by 16 lengths from Stainless Steel who, like Dunraven Royal, is qualified with the Llangenor Hunt.

David Brace OBE, who runs the Dunraven Stud at Pyle near Bridgend, was celebrating his 64th birthday and he had plenty more to smile about when his 13-year-old grandson Connor Brace won both pony races.

Connor won the 138cms and under open pony race on his grandfather's 12-year-old bay mare Molly V111 and the 148cms and under open pony race on Peateao also owned by his grandfather.

TUDOR'S DOUBLE
The Vale's James Tudor was in good form at the Hampshire Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Hackwood Park on Sunday where he landed a double with Connor Cloud in the open maiden race and Dante's Storm in the Bonham men's open race.

Connor Cloud was a 5-1 chance but Dante's Storm was well fancied and went off the 1-3 favourite.

BRIAN LEE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

BAYSIDE GARAGE LTD IS CROWNED 'SMALL GARAGE OF THE YEAR'

BAYSIDE Garage was crowned the 2015 Small Garage of the Year, and in doing so fought off some stiff competition from 2013's winner Anglo Continental Cars, and Marina Motors, New Delaval Car Sales and Avia Autos.

Owner Andrew Littlejohn said: "I don't expect to win anything because I never usually do. But to be told that we had won, I was like, 'that came out of the blue'. I was thinking that it was nice to be taking part and being nominated for the award, but never did I expect to be winning it."

The small garage based near Cardiff city centre has been working away at keeping their customers happy, while competing with a new, bigger workshop moving in next door, and Andrew says that winning the award gives a clear indication about how its customers view the garage.

"I like the idea of getting feedback from customers on how we are getting on, on the booking process or their experience with us. We know that a customer will have taken five or 10 minutes to vote for us, it is nice to know that they do care or want to show that appreciation that we do look after them."

"The fact they are willing to vote for the garage is nice and even though it is a day-to-day job you want to be enjoying it, but the fact that the customers took the time to vote is what means the most to me, more than anything else."



Andrew says the future looks bright for the garage because currently they have more than enough work to keep them occupied, and he expects future redevelopments of Cardiff to pay dividends: "We are really happy where we are, and with all the building work going on you are never going to be short of work really."

What customers said:

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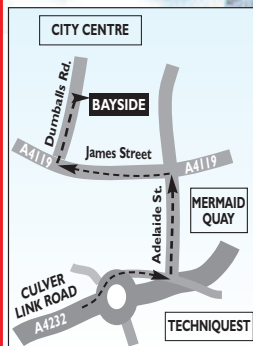
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Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, March 10, a full programme of league matches was completed.

The Edmondess A lost 4-5 to the Edmondess B, the Old Post Ladies narrowly lost 4-5 to the Edmondess C, the Highwayman Inn were defeated by the same 4-5 score by Llanharry, while the Hare and Hounds lost 3-6 to the Farmers Arms.

Present league standings after 17 matches, are: Llanharry (125 points), Edmondess B (98), Highwayman Inn (88), Edmondess A (78), Hare and Hounds (68),

Farmer's Arms (65), Edmondess C (56) and Old Post Ladies (32).

On Tuesday, March 24, the first rounds of the men's singles competition will be held. Matches will be played at four venues: Edmondess Arms, Farmers Arms, Hare and Hounds and Llanharry WMC.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a

cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Cowbridge Comprehensive sports round-up



The Year 9 county finals team.

LAST Friday Cowbridge Year 9 football team dismantled Caerleon in a breathtaking 10 minutes of football, to land themselves a place in the semi-finals of the prestigious Welsh Cup.

A slick opener from flying winger Cameron Gauci was followed by a deadly brace from top scorer Sam Green and Cowbridge found themselves 3-0 up inside the first quarter of an hour and Caerleon were unable to recover.

Cowbridge also hit the woodwork twice with two outrageous efforts, one coming from the mercurial midfield dynamo and captain Logan Roach. Somehow Caerleon managed to survive until halftime without conceding again.

Following some stern words from their manager, Caerleon returned to the pitch with a renewed vigour in the second half. They put Cowbridge under immense pressure and

were unlucky not to get a goal in the second half.

Such was the pressure from Caerleon, Cowbridge were limited to counter attacks but this pressure also gave Mitchell Stimson Jagger and Michael Bosley the platform to showcase their outstanding defensive qualities, both making a number of crucial last ditch tackles and interceptions.

What was even more impressive was the composure and flair with which they carried the ball out of defence to relieve pressure on their teammates. The match eventually finished 3-0.

Cowbridge now confidently await the name of their semi-final opponents, knowing that a place in the Welsh Cup final and the ultimate prize of representing the Welsh FA in an international tournament, to be held in Belfast, is within their grasp.

In addition to this, Cowbridge also find themselves in the semi-finals of the Cardiff and Vale Cup. The tie is to be played against St. Illtyds by March 24 and will be held on the 3G pitch so please come and support

the boys.

Cowbridge have eight wins out of eight this season – if the boys can make it 12 wins out of 12, they will achieve an unprecedented double.

Team: H. Hartmann, J. Dixon, M. Bosley, M. Stimson-Jagger, Gabe Davies, C. Gauci, L. Garrett, L. Roach, R. Allin, G. Cuddihy, S. Green, W. Marsden.

YEAR 7 HOCKEY COUNTRY TOURNAMENT

The A team's first game was against Bro Edern.

The game was very close and exciting. Cowbridge worked extremely hard and displayed some excellent hockey. The passing was good and everyone worked as a team.

Cowbridge scored within the first half and took the lead. Cowbridge continued to fight for every ball and tackled well. Final score 2-1, player of the match Imogen Thomas.

The A team's second game was against Cardiff High. The girls knew this was going to be a tough match and it was.

The girls fought hard and had many opportunities but Cardiff High had a very good defence. Cardiff High took their chances and won 4-0, player of the match: Amelie Clode.

The year 7 B team played against Cardiff High B team. Cowbridge played very well by passing and moving into space. Cardiff High kept passing down the middle but Cowbridge worked well in getting the ball out wide and took their chances. Final score 4-1; the B team are now through to the final!

The Year 8 hockey team qualified to play in the Year 8 county hockey finals.

The other teams were Howells, Plasnewydd and Gantaf. Cowbridge played first against Plasnewydd.

Plasnewydd scored a goal in each half making the final score 2-0. In the second game against Gantaf, they won 1-0, and in the third game against Howells it was a 0-0 draw.

Daisy Connelly, Cowbridge's goalkeeper, whose favourite sport is football, showed her strength and skill saving many shots on target throughout the tournament. Poppy Jenkins played defence and throughout the tournament excelled herself in defending individuals, hit outs and her general contribution towards the game.



The Year 7 hockey team.

Bethan Edwards, Ffion Hughes and Eve Mordecai all played really well in midfield and attack but unfortunately Cowbridge could not get a goal in this tournament.

Team: Daisy Connelly, Sarah Wynne, Poppy Jenkins, Helena McCormack, Frankie Coates, Beth Edwards, Stephanie Brownbill, Charlotte Tudor, Ffion Hughes, Ella Jones and Eve Mordecai; substitutes were Molly Lloyd, Lauren Light and Genevieve Kirk.

NETBALL

The Year 9 team competed in the Cardiff & Vale County netball final at Talybont.

Plasnewydd, Gantaf and Cathedral were battling it out to be county champions. Cowbridge faced Cathedral in the first match.

At the start of the match Cathedral pulled away but once Cowbridge had settled down towards the end of the half Cowbridge got into rhythm and played some excellent netball. At half time it was 6-4 to Cowbridge.

In the second half it was goal for goal then Cathedral came back to a draw. Cowbridge then scored the winning goal in the closing seconds to win 12-11.

The second game against Plasnewydd was a very tight game but the Cowbridge girls did lack discipline and were pulled up a lot for foot fouls and obstruction, but in the last minute Plasnewydd pulled away by two goals, winning 11-9.

In the final game against Gantaf, Cowbridge lost 16-4. Gantaf are a fantastic well drilled team and won the competition overall.

An excellent performance by the Year 9 team making lots of interceptions throughout and some lovely game play. Cowbridge came second overall on goal difference with Cathedral third and Plasnewydd fourth.

Team: Sarah Jones, Elin Swallow, Tiorion Evans, Molly Ward Tossell, Jordan Meek, Meriel Clode, Sophie Rees and Olivia Mitchell.



The Year 9 football team.



The Year 8 county finals team.

Under-9s impress

LLANTWIT Major under-9s travelled away to play Penallta RFC and 13 players turned up for the away match.

They were Kelyn Joseph, Dylan Brown, Lewys Ingram, Tom Hammett, Thomas George, Brandon Harris, Marcus Hamner, Carwyn John, Braydan Griffiths, Owen Richards, Kian Barnett, Tom Jones and Thomas Lamerton.

The coaches decided they would play three 10 minute halves and the players for the first 10 minutes were Kelyn, Dylan, Lewys, Tom H, Thomas G, Brandon, Marcus, Carwyn and Braydan.

The boys played some outstanding rugby, they all kept their positions and there was some fantastic defending and tackling as well as some excellent tries scored.

At the end of the first 10 minutes the score was Llantwit Major 3, Penallta 1, tries scored by Braydan, Thomas G and Lewys.

For the next 10 minutes Tom H, Carwyn and Dylan were replaced with Owen, Tom J and Thomas L; the boys

again played some excellent rugby and it was great to see them all working together as a team to play some brilliant rugby.

The defence was outstanding and the boys got stuck in with their tackling too. At the end of this 10 minutes the score was Llantwit Major 5, Penallta RFC 3, tries scored in this match by Braydan and Brandon.

The last 10 minutes saw all the players getting to play some more rugby and again the boys worked together as a team, making some great decisions - there was some great offloading of the ball and some fantastic tackles made.

The defence was brilliant and there were some great tries scored in this 10 minutes by Brandon, Dylan and Thomas L, making the final score a win for Llantwit, 8-5.

This was a great game of rugby to watch - all players played outstandingly, they all gave it a 100 per cent and this showed in the result.

Keep it up boys, men of the matches were Marcus and Thomas G. MG

Inter's amazing comeback

BARRY Inter-under-12s knew this game against Radyr Rangers would be a stern test as we previously had been beaten by this side on their march up to the higher end of league.

There were ominous signs early on as they scored in the 14th minute, a free kick way too high to be saved by Connor. A big turning point could have been the shot Eski fired at their goalkeeper which was subsequently saved; they broke and ran straight through us, firing in low to the corner giving Connor no chance. The chance of 1-1 gone, the score now read 2-0.

With Radyr scoring again just after 20 minutes we feared a rout, but the boys would not be breached again in this game. The defence of Josh, Lloyd, Dan and Aron pulled their sleeves and dogged out a performance from then on.

There was a different attitude in the second half and the midfield of Owen, Jack and Iestyn, with Eski playing high, and a cutting thrust of Jacob, gave less ball away and now we looked like we had our fight back.

Josh stepped up, shot hard and high which gave their keeper no chance. Another superb free kick taken by Josh hit the back of the net and all of a

sudden the other side looked nervous.

We peppered them then, wave after wave of attacks, and some box to box play resulted in a goal to Jacob. With the clock ticking down the ball fell to Lloyd who managed to rifle the ball in the net. What a turnaround!

A quick mention of thanks to Adrian Heathfield who refereed the game fairly, a fact that didn't go unnoticed by the opposition also.

DD

Barrivale Bridge Club - latest news

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club (March 10) are as follows:

First, Mark Roderick and Mike Best 67.08 per cent; second, Peter Millar and Tim Barsby, 59.17; third, Dave Reed and Sam Fellows, 57.92.

Dave Reed and Sam Fellows won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. For details, telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Competition intense at 40 mile race!

DULL overcast conditions with drizzle for the early stages, with a high of 10 degrees proved conducive for some excellent performances at the Barry 40 Miles Track Race.

The race incorporated the 26th edition of the Welsh Ultradistance Championship, with 10 starters and eight completing the full distance. Maybe the fact that Wales will be hosting the Anglo Celtic Plate/UK 100km championships at Redwick in eight weeks time was an attraction, but there was no doubting that this was the best and most-strongly contested Welsh Ultra Championship for many years.

Particularly pleasing was the fact that Welsh athletes finished in four of the top five positions, with all four breaking the five hour barrier being a very welcome bonus (the first time this has happened since 2000).

Jason Dickinson from TROTS was a very impressive winner of this championship in 2014, and was clearly the man to beat. He was five minutes clear of the opposition after the opening 10 miles, and he turned the Welsh Championship into a procession. He has clearly moved on to another level in the last 12 months, and his reward was a huge personal best of 17 minutes.

However, the destiny of the minor medals was compelling to watch, with Jason Scanlon, making his Barry debut, running a very canny race. He was, in fact, in sixth place of the Welsh athletes to finish after 10 miles, and only caught Dave Headon, who had been in the silver medal position, after 28 miles. He ran the final 20 miles five minutes quicker than the first 20, and that takes a very cool head and smart pace judgment.

The battle for bronze was closer still, with Jeremy Mower, very experienced in this event, only inching away from Dave Headon with two miles to go.

However, both Jeremy and Dave failed to finish last year, so for both to break five hours was a major achievement. Two newcomers to the race, Nigel Davies (Sam Helen) and Keith James (Llisserry Runners) both acquitted themselves well in their first attempt at this classic event, and will have learnt much from the experience.

The Welsh ladies championship was a contest of three former champions, Jayne Angille (2014), Natasha Farid-Doyle (2013) and Loretta Daley (2006-8). Natasha was relatively new to ultra distance two years ago, but a major breakthrough in the 24 hours event recently has given her a new-found confidence as well as the all-important extra stamina. She never looked in any trouble throughout the race, and her reward was a half-hour improvement to 5:33:47, as well as a second Welsh title.

Jayne showed all her tenacity to take the title last year, and although disappointed with her finishing time, showed tremendous spirit to take the silver medal here in 6:05:05. Sadly Loretta pulled out after 20 miles, but no doubt will be back to contest the race once more in 2016.

Despite the late withdrawal of four of the leading contenders through injury, the 29th running of the iconic Barry 40 Miles Track Race turned out to be a resounding success. Given the arduous nature of the event, the weather can have a significant bearing on the outcome – light winds and a high of ten degrees were pretty much perfect, and even the intermittent drizzle for the first half of the race helped minimise the inevitable effects of dehydration. This, plus the obvious meticulous personal preparation of the 20 athletes, led to an impressive list of personal best performances.

Grant Jeans, who won here three years ago, made the long journey from Glasgow, and despite having spent some time out through injury, started the race

as the clear favourite. His likeliest challenge appeared to come from Jason Dickinson, representing the TROTS club from west Wales. Jason had a marvellous run here last year to win the Welsh title, and recent reports indicated that he was in even better form this time.

A record six ladies entered this year, indicative of the fact that British lady ultrarunners are experiencing unparalleled success of late, and three of the UK top 10 ladies over 24 hours were in the line-up. Isobel Wykes from Truro has been amongst the top UK ladies over 100 km for over a decade, but a move up to the 24 hour event last year has seen her become stronger and more confident than ever.

She was using the race as a long training run in preparation for the World 24 hour championships in Turin in five weeks time. Local athlete Natasha Farid-Doyle was another athlete who had benefited from increased mileage recently, and like Isobel was using the race as valuable preparation for sterner challenges ahead. Last year's lady winner, Jayne Angille, returned to defend her title, and completing an impressive line up were Sharon Gayter, Loretta Daley and Molly Melhuish.

By five miles, Grant Jeans (31:00) was two and a half minutes ahead of Jason (33:33), and five minutes clear of Dave Headon and Zoltan Lesi (36:06) who were renewing their friendship from competing here last year. The next ten places were all very close. Isobel Wykes (38:41) and Natasha Farid-Doyle were running together a lot, and making running round a track look ridiculous easy. There was lots of banter with Jayne Angille and Loretta Daley only around three minutes back, with everyone looking comfortable. The intermittent drizzle meant that there were occasional changes of clothes to ensure athletes maintained sufficient warmth and comfort.

The second five miles were pretty much a mirror image of the first with both Grant and Jason on 'cruise control' and there was little change up to halfway. Past experience of this race has shown that the third quarter begins to expose athletes' relative strengths and weaknesses. Truth to tell, there weren't a lot of weaknesses to expose; 18 of the 20 starters were still on the track, and while not running quite as fluently as previously, most were still going well.

Grant was now over six circuits ahead (11 minutes) and also had moved ahead of his 2012 schedule. Jason was no longer conceding ground and was obviously going to better his 2014 time by a distance. Grant reached the home stretch, and track racing can create some interesting battles to watch, because, even though the overall result had been decided, the two leaders spent much of the final miles running together (although six laps apart) as Jason, 16 years older, tried to establish a final superiority over his younger rival, with Grant equally determined not to let him go.

Remarkably, Grant delivered a final flourish with a sprint on the last lap to win in 4:25:15, more than seven minutes quicker than in 2012, when the conditions were significantly windier. Jason's reward in second in 4:35:54 was a successive Welsh crown and runners-up spot, and a 17 minute personal best.

Jason Scanlon followed in third, maintaining his impressive drive through the field, and even more pleasing since it was his debut in this event. Jeremy Mower eventually caught Dave Headon on lap 150, and narrowly secured 4th position, but both were elated to break the all-important five hour barrier.

Isobel continued her imperious progress to the end, and rarely has a time of 5:16:58 looked easier – exactly the tonic she wanted prior to the World 24 hour championships next month. Her

friend Natasha Farid-Doyle also looked remarkably controlled to take the runners up spot and regain her Welsh title in 5:33:47 – half an hour quicker than she ran here two years ago. Jayne Angille hung on well to place third in 6:05:05, and a Welsh championship silver, but had clearly found it a struggle.

The fact that 16 of the 20 starters made it to the finish speaks volumes as to the physical and mental preparation of all concerned. Each had a remarkable tale to tell, but none more so than Geoff Oliver. Geoff (81) has been running ultras for the last 40 years, and the Barry event for the last 20.

After competing here 11 times before, and setting five world age group records, it came as no surprise that he should return to attack the world over-80s best performance he set in the UK 24 hours championships in Tooting Bec last September. And it came as even less of a surprise that he should revise his own marks at 30 miles (5:10:21), 50 kms (5:23:00) and 6 hours (54:03:09). On a day of superlative performances, Geoff had upstaged his younger rivals once again – and it was both breathtaking and inspiring to watch him.

As ever, this wasn't just about the athletes, it was also about the teams of supporters, so a special thank you should also go out to all the lap counters, drinks attendants, families and friends, Gary and Pip Hyatt for refreshments, Welsh Athletics, stadium groundsman Mike Humphrey, paramedic Martyn Morgan, race photographer Paul Stillman and everyone for their interest.

Next year's race will be the 30th – this is a show which just keeps running!

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Barry's undefeated run comes to an end

BARRY Town United's long unbeaten streak came to an end on Saturday against Undy; but the Jenner Park club remain in a strong position to secure a second successive league title.

The Welsh League Division Two meeting with Undy Athletic was always pinpointed as one of the campaign's tougher tests, with the visitors having held Barry to a 2-2 draw in January, after taking Town to extra-time in the 2013-14 Welsh Cup.

However, few of the crowd of 135, opting against an afternoon of Six Nations rugby, could have foreseen the series of events that led to the Town's first league defeat since April 2014.

With traffic problems delaying kick-off and Barry manager Gavin Chesterfield stuck at the wrong end of the M4 following midweek international duties, captain James Saddler, on his 150th Barry start, skippered a team without experienced campaigners Jamie Bradford, Tom Billing and Bobby Briers, and effective youngster Paul Morgan.

Nonetheless, fresh-faced Theo Richards slotted fairly comfortably into the Town back-four, partnering fellow Barry boys Lewis Cosslett and Ryan Evans, as well as long-serving former Wales youth

international Geraint Frowen.

Undy started the sharper of the sides, creating the bulk of the first-half chances and leaving Curtis Hutson, James Dixon and TJ Nagi to battle for scraps.

Town front pairing Dixon and Nagi would both strike the woodwork later, but it was the visitors who struck first blood, Gareth Cullimore's low effort beating Town goalkeeper Dan Bradley in the 34th minute.

Failing to come to life as a unit in what was a lethargic first half, Town performed better after the break, but were stunned when, three minutes into the second-half, Cullimore bagged his and Undy's second.

A fine right-footed strike that rocketed off the far post and into the Barry net, the second rocked the Jenner Park faithful and outlined the jeopardy the Town's 23-match unbeaten run was truly in.

Steadily finding their way, Dixon was unfortunate not to snatch one back for the hosts when the Undy goalkeeper blocked his effort from close range; and another Barry attempt was cleared from the line, finishing a frantic goalmouth scramble.

Then, when it seemed that the Town were destined to half the deficit, Undy broke free on the hour mark against the run of play which led to a straight red card for Lewis Cosslett.

Cosslett instinctively pulled back the Athletic striker, denying him a clean run at goal, and while Barry would

evade conceding a penalty by the narrowest of margins, the resulting free-kick from the edge of the box proved to be equally dangerous.

Curling home an exquisite set-piece to give the Gwent side a sizeable 3-0 lead, Tom Hooper delighted the away contingent, while rubbing further salt into the wounds of the grandstanders.

Never knowingly beaten, Barry persisted to chase the match and, despite their man disadvantage, they pulled one back with 20 minutes remaining.

Finishing from distance with typical skill and aplomb, it was Nagi who reduced the arrears, netting his 18th of the season and 65th in Barry colours.

The strike would galvanise the crowd and home team alike and, for a brief few minutes, it appeared that the Town may mount a mighty comeback to salvage a precious point.

However, a pair of quick-fire bookings for substitute Damon Searle, baffling both onlookers and the ex-Cardiff City defender, reduced Barry to nine men and effectively ended their chances of avoiding a first league defeat.

A bad day at the office for the Welsh League Division Three champions, but credit must go to the visitors, who were the better side on the day against a side sure to bounce back.

Barry now travel to

Caeleion on Saturday (2.30pm kick-off) needing four points to secure the unprecedented feat of back-to-back promotions.

Should results be in their favour, the Town could then be promoted at Jenner Park against Cwmbran Celtic next Tuesday, March 24 (7.45pm) or the following Saturday, March 28, at home to Penrhwi-ceiber (2.30pm).

Though their unblemished record has been shed, the real prizes still remain to play for and all in the town are welcomed to be part of what may be another historic season for the men in yellow and blue.

For the latest on the Barry Town promotion and title chases, visit the club online at www.barrytownunited.com

Team: Dan Bradley, Geraint Frowen, Ryan Evans, Lewis Cosslett, Theo Richards, Lee Baldock, James Saddler, Troy Greening, TJ Nagi, James Dixon, Curtis Hutson.

Substitutes used: Rhys James, Damon Searle, Dale Howarth. **Saturday's match was preceded by a spotlessly-observed minute's silence for Barry youngsters Alesha O' Connor, Conner Marshall, Corey Price and Rhodri Miller.**

The Town players also wore black armbands in their memory on an afternoon when the club paid its respects to four popular members of the local community.

AC

Brave display by Dinas Powys

THE display the young players of Dinas Powys put in against a strong AFC Llwydcoed was credit to themselves; their desire and belief in their ability was outstanding on Saturday.

Having over seven first team players missing through injury, sickness, holidays and work the squad was stretched with a number of second team players and youth players stepping up to the mark.

The home side started the brighter putting the Dinas makeshift defence under pressure but the impressive James Curtin in goals was more than a match pulling off a number of great point blank saves. Provis and Bashir showed their experience and with Miller and Mama Bangaraso getting through a lot of work, coped very well.

As the half wore on the visitors settled into their passing game and managed to get the young wide players Kings Mwedzo and Sam Johnson on the ball.

Dinas stuck to their game plan of trying to pass through midfield as much as they could and following one of these moves Nathan Donnelly was adjudged to be fouled on the edge of the box. James Alloway had the confidence to curl the ball over the wall but saw his effort cannon off the upright and away to safety.

Debutant Nathan Donnelly was a thorn in the home side's defence with his aerial strength and linked play up very well throughout the match as Dinas broke in numbers on the counter.

Steve Miller and Mama Bangaraso, playing as full backs, pushed the visitors on giving simple balls to midfield, and looked to play the right way.

At the break, at 0-0, certain issues were addressed as the home side had the better of the first half and Dinas had to rely on the saves of Curtin too much.

The second half saw Dinas come out with a real intent to play and attack. Kieron James was getting more on the

ball and with Newman and Alloway the visitors started to play.

The first 10 minutes was all Dinas as the pace of Kings and Johnson allowed them to get in behind the home side's defence. Donnelly was winning countless headers and the visiting players were first to react to his flick-ons.

Dinas took the lead early in the second half after a late tackle on Bangaraso allowed skipper Steve Provis to fire a free kick at Donnelly. His knock down to James Alloway was met on the half volley and was fired into the stanchion of the goal.

The following 10 minutes saw the home side throw a lot at the Dinas lads and it was end to end stuff. The lack of experience then came to light as the visitors did not press fast enough on the edge of the box, and some neat play from the Llwydcoed forwards created a simple chance. All the hard work put in was undone 10 minutes later as Dinas pushed for the winner and they were carved open at the back.

Tom Edwards and Matthew Bennett, two very young lads only recently playing under-16s football for Dinas, entered the game with 15 minutes to go and showed no fear and lots of potential.

Edwards freed Johnson with a delightful pass, and Johnson, playing with a lot more belief, drove past his fullback and was unlucky not to find a target in the box. As the game was coming to a close good work from Edwards and Johnson on the left allowed a cross into the box but the talented young Kings uncharacteristically fired wide from 15 yards which would have given Dinas a point.

This was always going to be a very hard game due to the lack of players available but the visitors showed that by playing the right way their rewards will come in time.

Thank you to all the supporters and players for the minutes silence before the match for Rhodri, Corey, Alesha & Margaret. **LS**

The Barry & District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1: Rhoose Social C 2, Cadoxton Cons B 3; Harbour A 2, Wyndham Cons C 8; Rhoose Social 6, Moors Boys 9; Liberals 5, West End Wanderers 10.

League table: Wyndham Cons 171, Liberals 168, Cadoxton Cons 167, Moors Boys 163, West End Wanderers 154, West End 153, Rhoose Social 150, Railway 134.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1: SeaView B 5, WestEnd D 2; King William XII 6, Rhoose Social C 1; Allsorts 2, Barries Boys 5; Slammers 5.5, LiberalsA 1.5; Runway Club 3; Rugby Club 4; Liberals C 6.5; Cambrian Flyers 0.5; Rhoosters 1, Rhoose Social A 6; Rhoose Social B 0.5, West End C 6.5.

League table: West End C 110.5, Sea View B 107, Allsorts 89.5, King William XII 87, West End D 83.5, Slammers 82, Barries Boys 76.5, Rugby Club 75.5, Rhoosters 69, Rhoose Social A 68, Rhoose Social B 63.5, Liberals A 58, Rhoose Social C 57.5, Runway Club 53.5, Liberals C 49, Cambrian Flyers 46.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1: Wyndham Cons A 4, Rhoose Social B 1; Harbour B 2, Savoy A 3; Rhoose Social C 2, Cadoxton Cons B 3; Harbour A 2, Wyndham Cons C 3; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Savoy B 2; West End C 4, Penarth Cons B 1.

League table: Harbour B 87, Savoy A 84, West End C 68, Cadoxton Cons B 65, Cadoxton Cons Z 61, Rhoose Social B 53, Rhoose Social C 51, Wyndham Cons A 51, Harbour A 50, Penarth Cons B 41, Savoy B 41, Wyndham Cons C 38.

When the Glamorgan Hunt held their first meeting...

THE Glamorgan Hunt will be celebrating their 125th anniversary meeting when they hold their point-to-point at Ystradowen on March 28.

A report in the South Wales Daily News, dated March 7, 1890, read: "The programme for the Cardiff races has just been issued. It contains a list of 12 races, six each day. They are the usual type and call for no comment. Moreover, the interest in them locally is now eclipsed by the point-to-point which is fixed for the 19th of March."

The Cardiff races referred to took place at Ely Racecourse which was to be home to the Welsh Grand National from 1895 until 1939 when the racecourse closed. However, the point-to-point race referred to - in fact there were two of them - was for maiden hunters, the property of subscribers to the Glamorgan and Lord Tredegar Hounds.

The first was for horses not exceeding 15.2hh, the minimum weight being 11st, 7lb. In the second race the riders weighed out at 13st. The races were held on a Wednesday afternoon, and the riders weighed out in the outbuildings of Mr Ralph Thurston, Bassett's farm at Crossways, near Cowbridge.

Mr Bassett, who held the mastership of the Glamorgan Hounds, was a popular sportsman and was solely responsible for the existence of the Cowbridge Hunt races that used to be held at Penllyn Castle, Cowbridge. The course for these races is said to have commenced at a point between Llandow and Stemberge.

Crossing the Clemenston brook, it took a direction northward, and turning right, and leaving Hilton Farm on the left, it was almost a straight line over the Pinklands, finishing up at the Corrwgs. The course, which was mostly grass, was a stiff one and the distance was about four miles.

Victory in the first event went to Mr H Watson's Snitton who a month later landed a selling hunters' steeplechase at Cowbridge Races. There were 12 starters for the second race - there had been 14 in the first - which was won by Capt. Morgan Lindsay's Brunette.

Mr Herbert Sarsfield Watson, the son of Mr Jonas Watson, a well-known Cardiff businessman, was a popular rider at local meetings and on a few occasions had won the Glamorgan Hunt Cup at Cowbridge Steeplechases.

One person who remembered Capt. Morgan Lindsay was Mr W J Heariden who recalled: "He was a real Christian and devout churchman and one of nature's rare gentlemen. He served in the South African War and the 1914-18 war, in which he sadly lost three sons, all I think in the space of 12 months."

Colonel Lindsay, as he was to become, trained many winners from his mountainside training yard at Ystad Mynach and among those to ride for him were Fulke Walwyn, Evan Williams and Sir Harry Llewellyn.

The South Wales Daily News reporter, Cosmos, did not seem entirely satisfied with the conditions of entry for these races. He wrote: "When the conditions were framed, the limiting of the animals' height to 15.2hh was done in order to give the smaller animals - of which there are so many in the hunt - a reasonable expectation of carrying off the trophy, but the intention failed because weight was not allowed for inches, as it should have been."

He went on to say: "The framing of these conditions did not allow a bona fide farmer to enter his horse in either race. Such a small courtesy would cost nothing, and would cement many a friendship." Cosmos, it seems, was not only an outspoken man, but a wise one too!

Adapted from Brian Lee's The Races Came Off: The Story of Point-To-Point Racing in South and West Wales.

BRIAN LEE

Chess Championships sees action heating up

ALTHOUGH the Bosons had a match in division 1 this week, the highlight was the fifth round of the Barry Club Chess Championships and 16 players took part on Thursday night, producing some interesting games.

On top board was Ashley Davis, the only player with a 100 per cent record against the unbeaten Craig Woolcock with 3.5 points from four games. This was one of the longer games of the night and finished with a nice queen, bishop and rook attack and another win for Ashley.

Matthew Parry moves into second place but is a whole point behind Ashley after he defeated Chris Green. Ashley and Matthew are likely to meet in the sixth round with Matthew due to have the white pieces. A draw will almost certainly mean the trophy will remain in the Davis household but a win for Matthew would open up the tournament for a number of players.

The six players entered into the Plate are all within a point of one another in a closely

fought section. There was a win for Ken Hannah over Martin Ricketts, who forgot that his knight was preventing a mating attack and moved it, promptly losing.

Ken stands on three points level with the canny Windsor Lewis who took a bye in this round. Windsor heads Ken on tie break but is also entered into the Bowl and leads this section by a point.

Windsor is likely to get a tough opponent in round six so the other Bowl entrants may catch up some lost ground.

In the league the Bosons earned a victory by 3.5 to 1.5 over the relegation-haunted Nelson Rhinos. The Bosons won by drawing the top three boards and winning on the bottom two boards.

Of particular note was Pagona's win; after being a pawn down she

captured the queen to take a back rank mate. It was a good week for Pagona who followed up with a win in the Club Championships as well.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Bowls open day

RHOOSE Bowling Club are busy preparing for their 2015 season.

It will commence on Saturday, April 11, with the club's open day and anyone interested in finding out about bowls is invited to attend.

Club coaches will be available to provide instruction from 2pm, all that is required is a pair of flat shoes.

JH



SIX NATIONS RUGBY

WALES 23 IRELAND 16



'WE KNOW HOW TO BEAT YOU' TAUNTS
REBOUND FOR THE SECOND TIME AS...

The fiery Red Dragon roars defiance and turns the Irish dream to ashes again!



THEY SHALL NOT PASS!



TRY! Like a knife through butter, or should it be Flora?

Photographs by
HUW EVANS AGENCY

ABOVE, left: The Welsh defence moves in to repel yet another Irish onslaught. ABOVE, right: Scott Williams cuts through the Irish defence.

JUST before their epic quarter final clash at the 2011 Rugby World Cup in Wellington, New Zealand, the Irish camp artfully let it be known that they "knew how to beat Wales".

It may have all been part of the 'phoney-war' wind-up mind games that are played before the real action begins out on the pitch, but nevertheless there was some justification for the claim, given that Ireland had won eight out of the 10 previous meetings, including a 'double' over their former head coach Warren Gatland's Wales – 27-12 at Croke Park in 2010 and 17-15 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in Ireland's Grand Slam year, 2009.

Tongue-in-cheek or not, the pre-match barbs came back to haunt them, as a young Welsh team that were the dark horses of the tournament, suddenly exploded into World Cup action, ripping Ireland's old guard apart (22-10) with a controlled fury they have not been quite able to replicate since – with the possible exception of the ferocious 30-3 dismantling of Grand Slam-hunting England at the Millennium Stadium in March 2013.

At the time, this column noted that the RWC stunner would come to be seen as a defining, coming-of-age landmark on the road to the long-awaited Welsh revival, following on from two Grand Slams in 2005 and 2008.

It was built on an iron-clad, aggressive defence and relentless power play that has become Gatland's trademark – though since mocked in some quarters as 'Warren-ball'; a theme taken up by former Irish international Neil Francis in a controversial newspaper article, who repeated the "Ireland know how to beat Wales" claim just days before Saturday's Six Nations showdown at the Millennium Stadium:

"They (Wales) are quietly confident they can do us... They are confident every time they play us! Their problem is that their game is pretty one dimensional – Warren-ball," he scoffed, going on to say mischievously that Gatland had the "intellectual properties of a tub of Flora" – an

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

outburst guaranteed to raise Welsh hackles, adding even more spice to an already charged atmosphere in the home dressing room.

The question was, could the team respond as they had done before to Irish taunts in New Zealand?

'Yes' was the emphatic answer and it came in 80 pulsating minutes of raw courage and fierce physical commitment, with a truly remarkable defensive effort hewn out of 'they shall not pass!' defiance – the like of which has not been seen at the Millennium Stadium for many a year.

From the outset, it was clear that the form book was being ripped up and if the No 3 side in the world, who were on a 10-match winning roll, really believed the pre-match hype that they 'knew how to beat one-dimensional Wales' they were soon to be disabused, as the home team hurled themselves bodily into the fray to claim a famous 23-16 victory and deny the tournament favourites any chance of a Grand Slam.

Last week, this column suggested Wales were "poised to burst the green bubble", with growing signs that a slow to burn Welsh fuse was set to burst into flame in the penultimate match of the Six Nations and predicted – 'It's going to be a craic-er!'

And so it proved with a vengeance, as two old Celtic rivals clashed in hand-to-hand sporting combat that was not for the fainthearted.

There was no way the Welsh fuse would burn slow this day – with the home side roaring out of the starting blocks and almost immediately forcing their taken aback opponents into the first of a stream of penalties which Leigh Halfpenny snapped up; and followed this five minutes later when the Irish conceded a second penalty, this time directly in front of their posts.

The metronomic full back sounded a warning that all indiscretions would be severely punished from anywhere on the park, when the

now clearly rattled men in green were penalised on halfway and over it sailed to make the score 9-0 with just 10 minutes gone.

The lesson, it seems, was not heeded, for the visitors' were harried into yet another penalty infringement gobbled up by Halfpenny – though it also coincided with tight head prop Samson Lee leaving the field with a leg injury, to be replaced by Aaron Jarvis.

(The game also saw young Pembrokeshire prop Rob Evans later make his senior debut off the bench, replacing 113-cap Gethin Jenkins).

Ireland's danger man, the usually assured Johnny Sexton, whose kicking was expected to be pivotal to the outcome (no pun intended!) was showing he, too, is not immune to error, failing with a kickable penalty attempt, though he made amends (just!) with a kick that bobbed over the crossbar for Ireland's first points, to make it 12-3.

Thanks to giant second row Luke Charteris and Welsh skipper Sam Warburton (who celebrated breaking the record for most Wales caps as captain with a man-of-the-match award), Wales were dominating the lineup where Ireland were expected to have a field day.

When Warburton was yellow carded, reducing his team to 14 men for 10 minutes and Sexton found his range with the resulting penalty to cut the deficit to 12-6, some feared this could be the critical turning point.

His opposite number, Dan Biggar eased the nerves with a well-worked drop goal to make the score 15-6. Then, as halftime approached, the visitors suddenly hit back with a cross-field move that almost reaped dividends, but the heroic Welsh defence held out – though having to concede a penalty smack in front of their posts which made the score 15-9.

After the changeover, the home team was subjected to wave after wave of all-out attacks that threatened to overwhelm the defensive redline, with Irish attackers encamped there for

an incredible 32 phases – but coming away empty handed.

The ball was finally cleared away to touch – and then it was Wales' turn to attack, replacement centre Scott Williams cut through the defence like a knife through butter (or Flora!) for a top drawer team try, which for once Halfpenny failed to convert.

At 20-9, the two incidents could well have demoralised a lesser side, but the Grand Slam hopefuls were made of sterner stuff and again Wales found themselves under the cosh, pinned on their own line.

Something had to give, and this time it was the home defence, with the referee pointing to the posts for a converted penalty try that reduced the gap to four points at 20-16, with just seven minutes to full time.

By now the combatants resembled two weary boxers who had fought each other to a standstill and it was to the relief of everyone wearing red when Halfpenny took off his headguard and lined up his final penalty kick for a truly momentous win, the scoreboard now reading 23-16.

Even with the clock hand edging toward the 80-minute mark, the men in green were still pressing hard, only thwarted by that valiant rearguard defence.

Now for the cliff-hanger in Rome!

WALES TEAM TO FACE ITALY:

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon); George North (Northampton Saints); Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne); Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro); Liam Williams (Scarlets); Dan Biggar (Ospreys); Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Rob Evans (Scarlets); Scott Baldwin (Ospreys); Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys); Luke Charteris (Racing Metro); Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys); Dan Lydiate (Ospreys); Sam Warburton (Cardiff Blues, captain); Taulupe Faletau (Newport Gwent Dragons).
Replacements: Ken Owens (Scarlets); Rhys Gill (Saracens); Scott Andrews (Cardiff Blues); Jake Ball (Scarlets); Justin Tipuric (Ospreys); Gareth Davies (Scarlets); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets); Scott Williams (Scarlets).